

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 359.—VOL. 14.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED 3½D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

PUBLIC men in England seem pretty well agreed that this Session shall be, as far as home politics are concerned, as uneventful as the last. At the beginning of the week we consequently had an evening spent in the Lower House in a discussion as to the manner and form in which its business should be conducted. This state of things seems to be desired by the chiefs of both parties and by many of their followers, and it happens just now to suit the feeling of the country at large. In the theatre of politics we are at present spectators rather than actors. We are so much interested in the result of the great American struggle that we have little desire to be busy with political intrigues or constitutional changes at home. We do not think that this quiescent condition in which we find ourselves is the result of apathy or the fruit of what has been so much talked of as a "Conservative reaction." The last agitation for a new Reform Bill by Mr. Bright and others was badly conducted, and was a failure. Then followed the great and successful struggle for independence on the part of Italy; and, in adopting the attitude of lookers-on, we ceased for a time to take a lively interest in home politics, absorbed and agitated as we were by the threatening and exciting state of Europe. And now the stupendous contest between North and South, of which we have only seen the beginning, makes such questions as an increase of the suffrage or the adoption of the ballot at present comparatively insignificant. If an evening were expended on Mr. White's theory of conducting the business of the House, we cannot think that it was wasted. Grievous abuses have

no doubt arisen under the present system, and it is clear that they are now seen and felt; but whether this particular suggestion was the right one is of course a different question. As Mr. Disraeli said, it is doubtless most important that the House of Commons should represent public opinion. That is its first duty. But it has others; and the progress of public business, no doubt, has been seriously interfered with by the extent to which members have abused the privilege of putting questions to the Government on going into Committee of Supply. Mr. White was not very courteously treated; but he has certainly done good by ventilating the question, and we have no doubt his suggestions will, in a modified form, be ultimately acted on.

In the House of Lords, Lord Carnarvon has, in a spirited speech, brought under the notice of his brother peers the treatment which some of our fellow-countrymen have suffered at the hands of the Federal Government. Earl Russell was bound to be more diplomatic and less indignant, and provoked a taunt from Lord Derby that his language with regard to the course pursued by the American Government towards British subjects did not add much to the "Civis Romanus sum" doctrine. Mr. Seward, in his correspondence on this matter, seems to have been as inaccurate in his facts as he was in his arguments on the rights of neutrals. A correspondent, however, of the *Daily News* suggests that Lord Derby and Lord Carnarvon should extend their sympathy to the sailors who during the Union were frequently imprisoned in Southern gaols. On the same evening Lord Malmesbury made some observations, not of the most sagacious description, and not calculated to give

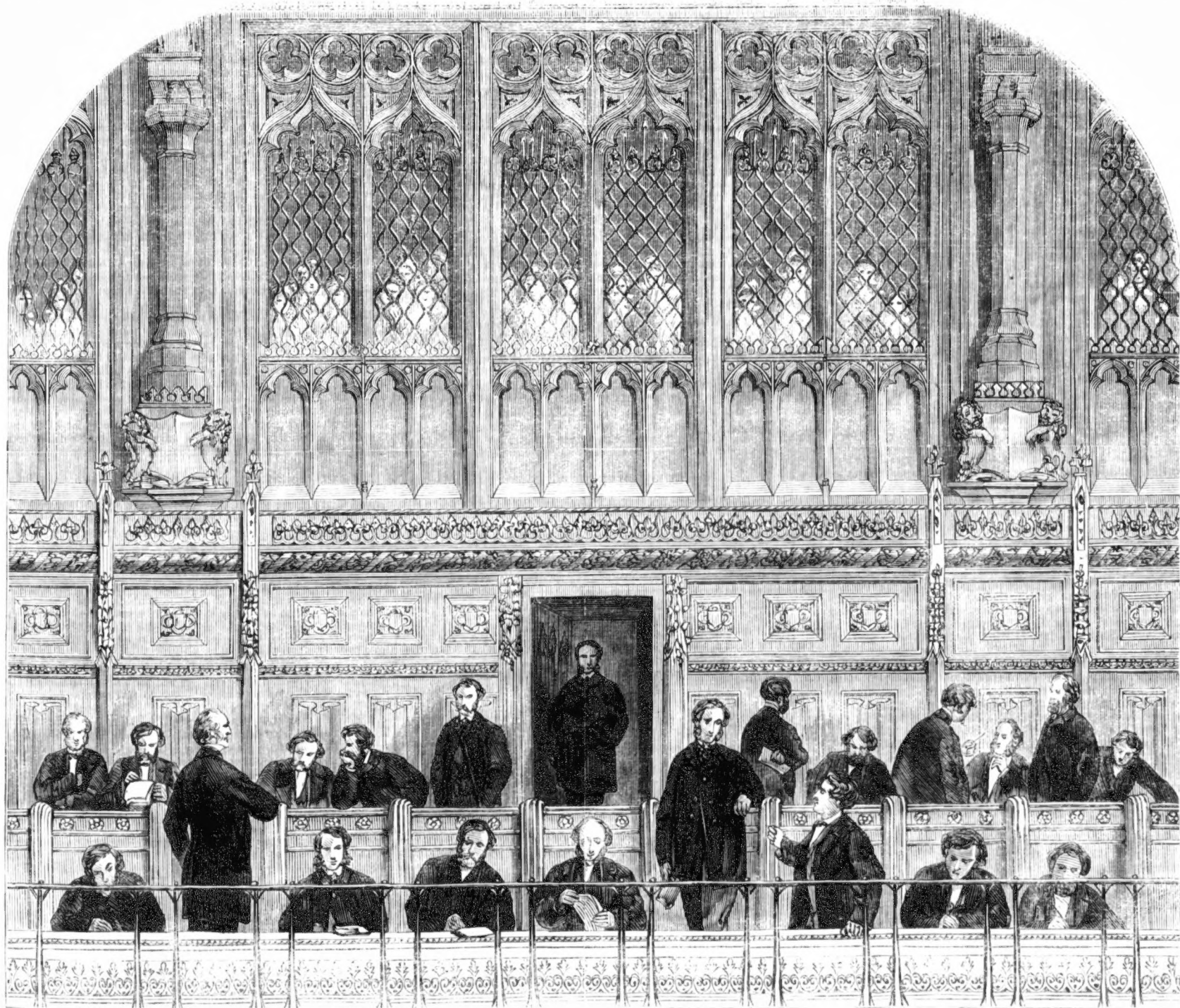
the country confidence in him should he ever again drift into the Foreign Office. When he talked of the "paper declaration of 1856" he should have remembered that the English are a people who have a great regard for treaties, and consider that when they violate them they are sacrificing the national honour. A contemporary well observes that it is "no light thing to tamper with the general rules of moral conduct, nor is the offence less in a British peer than in the Minister of an American President."

By the North American, from Portland, we learn that the Federals are concentrating their forces at Lebanon, forty miles from Springfield, for another chase after General Price. The *New York Times*, it appears, justifies the sinking of vessels in Charleston harbour, and deprecates any interference on the part of European Powers. The New York press generally, expressing the feeling of the North, is animated by so ferocious a spirit of hostility against the South that it is guilty of unscrupulously defending acts wholly unjustifiable.

The Conservatives have gained another victory in the return of Mr. Bramley-Moore for Lincoln. It is not, however, at this time very important. Tories are disposed to support the present Government; and at any rate, for this Session, the "Palmerston Dictatorship" is not likely to be disturbed.

Convocation has been sitting during the week. Their proceedings have been almost as uninteresting as those of the other two Houses.

Professor Jowett, of whom we have heard so much of late, has behaved, as we should have expected him to behave, with admirable good taste, modesty, and consideration in



OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—THE REPORTERS' AND LADIES' GALLERIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

reference to a proposal to make up to him by a voluntary subscription the arrears of the professorial income hitherto withheld from him on the ground of his supposed heterodoxy. We have nothing to do here with his theology; but all who admire the intellect and the earnestness of this distinguished man will rejoice at what he has said and done in the matter. £2000 were subscribed and offered to him. This the Professor declined to accept, on the ground that he had no proper claim upon the subscribers; but he added that the possession of the list of the names of those who had contributed would afford him infinitely more gratification than he could possibly derive from accepting the money offered to him.

THE REPORTERS' GALLERY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IN 1738 there was a long debate in the House of Commons upon the growing evil of reporting to the public the speeches of the members, and it ended by passing the following resolution:—"That it is a high indignity to, and a notorious breach of the privileges of, this House for any news-writer in letters or other papers (as minutes or under any other denomination), or for any printer or publisher of any printed newspaper of any denomination, to presume to insert in the said letters or papers, or to give therein, any account of the debates or other proceedings of this House, or any Committees thereof, as well during the recess as the sitting of Parliament; and that the House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offenders." The debates, however, notwithstanding this thunderbolt, were reported. Cave published them in his *Gentleman's Magazine*. He was obliged, however, to cloak them in the disguise of "Debates in the Senate of Lilliput." It was these debates, so disguised, that Dr. Johnson had a hand in reporting. Such was the state of affairs in 1738. After this, a long war ensued between the House and the press; but, thanks to such men as Cave, and especially Woodfall and Perry, every year the press gained upon its enemies, until at last the reporters' gallery became a recognised institution of the House. "The Reporters' Gallery" in the Engraving is that in which gentlemen are seen writing, or relieving one another. Behind the gallery is a room, lighted by the authorities, in which the reporters can arrange and write out their notes; and there is also a staircase leading into Palace-yard.

THE LADIES' GALLERY.

The Ladies' Gallery is behind the brass trelliswork above the reporters'. In the old House there was no ladies' gallery, but ladies used to get admission into a chamber above the ceiling, and look down through the open ventilator. It was a disagreeable place, for the heat and stench ascending from the lamps below were almost insufferable; but what is it that ladies will not bear to hear and to see something which they have not seen and heard before? We are assured that this horrible place used to be crowded, and that ladies have been known to sit out a long debate in this reeking atmosphere. The Ladies' Gallery in the new House is comfortable enough; but it is very small. Admission is obtained by members putting down their friends' names in a book kept by the Sergeant-at-Arms on duty. Each member may put down two names; but such is the anxiety to get a seat in this gallery that it can seldom be obtained within less time than a fortnight after the name has been inserted in the book.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French Senate have unanimously agreed to permit the promulgation of the measure for the conversion of the Rentes. The bill has likewise passed the Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 226 to 19.

A curious illustration of the working of the system of universal suffrage amongst our Gallic neighbours was afforded by a debate in the Chamber of Deputies on Friday week. The President of the Council of State maintained that it was the right and duty of the Government to direct and enlighten the electors in the choice of members; and the Chamber, with its usual devotedness, adopted the principle, and validated the election of the member whom the Emperor had deigned to select, the remonstrances and objections of the opposition candidate being set at naught.

The *Moniteur*, in alluding to the comments of the press on Mexican affairs, says:—"An imperious necessity exists for the intervening Powers to complete their work by constituting, in accordance with the wishes of the Mexican nation, a strong and durable Government with which Europe could form solid and pacific relations." The official organ also says:—"It is incorrect that General Prim will take the supreme command of the allied troops in Mexico. Each General will preserve the integrity of his command."

SPAIN.

Senor Martinez de la Rosa, President of the Chamber of Deputies, died on the 7th instant, and is succeeded in the chair of the Chamber by M. Mon, Spanish Ambassador at Paris.

The Minister of Finance is actively engaged in the settlement of the redeemable debt.

ITALY.

The Italian Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the several prefects, requesting them to use their legitimate authority for the purpose of preventing such popular manifestations as those which have recently taken place in Florence and Parma. But the people, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the Government, persist in their demonstrations against Rome. Fresh manifestations are reported in several towns, and at Naples the priests took part with the people. The popular cry is "Rome, the capital of Italy!" Preparations having been made for popular manifestations in Milan similar to those which have recently taken place in other Italian towns, the municipality published a proclamation stating that demonstrations in the public streets were useless, and advising the Milanese to exercise their constitutional rights by signing the following protest:—"Although respecting the Sovereign Pontiff as the head of the Church, we look upon Rome as the capital of Italy, with one King, Victor Emmanuel." This protest already bears innumerable signatures.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has created fifteen new members of the Upper House, one of whom is Professor Miklosich, not of noble origin. This measure is considered as a pledge of the maintenance of the February diploma of 1861. In the sitting of the 5th inst., the Cabinet of Vienna communicated its financial projects to the Chambers. No new taxes will be created during the present year, but those already existing will be increased. The augmentation, according to the calculation of the Minister of Finance, will add about 32,000,000 to the revenue. The Government also proposes to realise the fractions of previous loans, not yet taken up.

Despatches which reach Paris from Vienna contain mysterious language. It is hinted that the Emperor Francis Joseph will be long openly break with the obdurate retrograde party who surround him. A foreign Power has made representations to the Austrian Government suggesting a reduction of the army. At least that is what the "friendly representations" are said really to mean, though, of course, no great Power would in so many words pretend to say what should be the naval and military strength of another great

Power. The question of reducing the army is to come on before the National Parliament at Vienna. One despatch says that Austria is about to give to the Hungarians nearly all they ask for, so determined is the Emperor to be reconciled with this powerful and important group of his rebellious subjects. We have had before similar promising news from Vienna; but it has hitherto never been realised. Will it now?

PRUSSIA.

A proposition on the subject of Federal reform is about to be brought forward in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. The proposal consists of three paragraphs, the first of which simply affirms that the interest of Germany in general requires of the Government to occupy itself in the consideration of Federal reform. The second clause declares the only possible solution of the question to be a central Prusso-German monarchy, with a national parliament; and the third paragraph invites the Government to adopt a policy which will have that end in view, and to ask for the purpose the co-operation of friendly States.

The Archbishop of Posen has, after long hesitation, determined on prohibiting his clergy from taking part in any political manifestations. The pastoral letter which he has written with this view also enjoins all ecclesiastics to exercise their influence over their parishioners to deter them from any acts contrary to the laws and to the existing order of things.

DENMARK.

The Danish Government has announced to the Rigsraad that they desire to establish the freedom and independence of Denmark and Schleswig, either with or without legislative connection with Holstein.

RUSSIA.

The following are the details of the estimated expenditure and income of the Russian empire for the ensuing year, as set forth in the Budget:—

Expenditure—National Debt, 54 million silver roubles; Imperial Household, 5 million; War Department, 110 million; Naval Department, 20½ million; Home Department, 7½ million; Financial Department, 27 million; Pensions, 13 million; Ministry of Public Works, 9 million; subsidies paid to various branches of industry, 8 million.

Income.—By poll tax, 28 million silver roubles; land tax, 25 million; property of the State, 12 million; tax on liquors, wine, &c., 124 million; Customs, 32 million; Postal Department, 7 million; stamp dues, 6 million.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The insurrectionary movement, if it really was so, around Bucharest appears to be entirely suppressed. In fact, it is stated that the insurgents, who were marching upon Bucharest, fled on the approach of Prince Couza's troops. A great number of peasants have been arrested.

TURKEY.

Although the Sultan, upon his accession to the throne, considerably reduced his civil list, and has since devoted to the services of the State large sums from the savings of his private purse, his Imperial Majesty has just sent, of his own accord, 20,000,000 piasters to discharge the arrears due to officials and to the army.

A somewhat severe engagement is reported to have taken place between the Turks and the Montenegrins, in which the loss was very heavy on both sides. The Montenegrins are said to have numbered 3000 men.

MEXICO.

On the 7th of January the British and French squadrons, and a Spanish steamer with General Prim on board, arrived at Vera Cruz. General Prim made a speech to the effect that the expedition had not come to conquer Mexico but to obtain redress for injuries. A great number of the French troops had disembarked. The flags of the three Powers floated over Vera Cruz and San Juan d'Ulloa. Reconnaissances had been made, and the Mexicans seem determined to resist. The Peruvian Government has offered arms, ammunition, and troops to the Mexicans to repel the invasion, and the Peruvian press writes strongly against the allies.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

At Peking all was quiet. Trade is very prosperous on the Yang-Tze River. Ningpo has been taken by the rebels, but the lives and property of foreigners were respected. At Canton all was tranquil. Matters are quiet in Japan. Mr. Moss has been awarded 2000 dols. damages by the Japanese Government. Mr. Harris has also obtained 10,000 dols. for the mother of the murdered Hensken.

INDIA.

At the date of the last advices from India the Governor-General had definitely abandoned his intention of visiting Pegu, and was preparing to return to England. A Bheel rising in Kandeish was becoming troublesome, and a demand for more troops had been made. There was a growing conviction that the prisoner detained at Kurrachee is Nana Sahib. The product of the late cotton crop was pouring into Bombay. The health of the latter city was bad, and the cholera was prevailing amongst the poorer classes.

GERMAN POLITICS.

POLITICAL intrigues are again rife in Germany. A movement appears to be in progress there which is likely to lead to important consequences. The affair has its origin in the struggle between Prussia and Austria for the leading position in Germany, and which has resulted for the present in the defeat of the former. Austria, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, and all the rest of the German States, except Prussia, Baden, and Coburg-Gotha, have concluded a new German confederacy, and the various States have each notified the fact to the Prussian Government. Prussia will, of course, be asked to become a member of the new confederacy, but it is believed that she will not submit to enter the confederacy, but will seek an alliance with France and adopt a progressive and liberal policy at home and abroad.

This affair is affording a theme of warm discussion in the German journals. A Munich paper thus explains the objects of the new confederacy:—

In the homogeneous notes which have been delivered to Count Von Bernstorff by the Austrian Minister at Berlin, simultaneously with the Ministers of Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, Hanover, Hesse-Darmstadt, Nassau, Brunswick, Oldenburg, Schwarzburg, many Thuringian duchies, and Liechtenstein, and which was drawn up in extremely moderate terms, and is intended thereby to facilitate as much as possible an assenting disposition on the part of Prussia, it is notified that the participating States have already agreed to extend the defensive alliance over all the territories of the members of the Diet, as well as also, inversely, in case of war, the defence might be effected with all the strength of the participating States. All necessary measures shall be taken in common for a corresponding development of the defensive power of the great German united territory, and a meeting shall be initiated respecting the chief command in war. The present alliance shall continue as a sort of intimate federation against attacks from without and for the common defence. One of the delegates of the people's chambers, formed from the assembly of nobles, shall be appointed to the Federal Diet, and he shall have a proportionate influence on the legislative and administrative labours of the assembly.

The *Press* of Vienna, in referring to this subject, adds that each Government declares its willingness to sacrifice as much of its single sovereignty as may be necessary to produce the restoration of an effective new German League, and for the promotion of an executive of the League, and of a German representation formed by delegates from the Chambers of each State. The note delivered to Count Bernstorff also expresses the hope that Prussia will meet the German Governments on this ground, and unite its exertions with those of

the other States for the reorganisation of the German League on this basis.

The *Nord*, in commenting on this affair, says:—

The initiative is taken by M. de Bismarck, the Saxon Minister, in the question concerning the organic reform of the German Confederation, was—as we declared it to be from the first—a manoeuvre intended to force Prussia to declare her intentions, and the other Governments to protest against the views attributed to Prussia. A great deal of noise has been made about the despatches exchanged between the Cabinets of Dresden, Berlin, and Vienna. But this was not enough; it was needful to strike a great blow, and this has just been done. The collective or simultaneous step taken at Berlin by Austria and the secondary Governments is an act of the highest importance. One may judge of the spirit that animates the identical notes in question from the ironical allusion they make to "the successes of Prussia in 1850." As for the fundamental principle of this anti-Prussian league, it evidently consists in setting up in opposition to the Prussian coalition, of which the German nation is an accomplice, a dynastic coalition, under the auspices of Austria, who would derive the chief advantage from it in chaining Germany to her own political destiny by the guarantee of her non-German possessions. We shall not have to wait long for the text of the notes, the mere news of which is setting Germany in commotion. The Prussian Government is bound to reply to these direct menaces, and appeal against them to the judgment of the nation. At all events we are now spectators of the beginning of a political movement far more critical than the efforts of the National Verein, and one which brings seriously in question the existence of the German Confederation.

A Berlin letter of the 3rd instant says that the committee of the Chamber of Deputies charged to examine the propositions relative to Electoral Hesse assembled on the 4th. The Government was represented by Count de Bernstorff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Abeken, Councillor of Legation. The Minister declared that the Government persisted in the view it had first taken of the Hessian affair, and said that the Hessian Government had been informed that the interests of Prussia might oblige her to consider the Hessian question as one not merely confined to the electorate. It is stated that the Elector of Hesse has applied to the Austrian Government to inquire whether he might rely on its support in the event of any disturbance. Austria is said to have replied negatively, and to have advised the Elector to adopt a line of policy of a nature to prevent any domestic collision. This at least was a report current in Berlin.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

AT the date of the last advices from America the army of the Potomac was still in tents: the roads in Virginia being broken to the bottom by rains, an advance is impossible. General Burnside's expedition had arrived in Pamlico Sound. It is intended to cut the railroad communication between Carolina and Virginia, in order to restrict the movements of the Confederates. The Confederates had ordered out the North Carolina militia, to be prepared to meet the expedition. The Federals are said to have occupied the Cedar Keys, in Florida. All we hear of the war in Missouri is a correspondence between the Confederate General Price and the Federal General Halleck, in which the latter states, in reply to the former, that Confederate prisoners captured in the garb of soldiers will be treated as prisoners of war, but that spies and incendiaries will be punished. The victory over General Zollicoffer, in Kentucky, is said to have effectually crushed the rebellion in that State, and that the remainder of the campaign will be fought in Tennessee. It is reported that General Beauregard has been transferred to a command in Kentucky, from which it may be inferred that the rebels are prepared to make another struggle for the possession of that State.

An expedition, one-half composed of cavalry, was about to be dispatched to Texas, under command of General Lane, and it is rumoured in Washington that the Secretary of War had instructed General Lane to arm the slaves and employ them in military operations against the enemy.

General Arthur had laid before the Legislature of the State of New York plans for the defences of New York harbour, for the safety of which fears had arisen during the late chance of a rupture with England.

The House Committee on Foreign relations has authorised contracts of 500,000 dols. for the manufacture of ordnance for the coast defences of Massachusetts. Mr. Gurley in Congress strongly denounced the inactivity of the Army, and said that he considered it impossible for one man to command efficiently so large a force as the present Federal Army.

Two commissioners have been appointed to visit the South and contribute to the comforts of the Federal prisoners, at the expense of the Federal Government, to such an extent as the Confederates will permit.

Brigham Young, the Mormon ruler of the Great Salt Lake, is now giving another proof of that shrewdness for which he has long been notorious. Under his inspiration the Mormons have drawn up a State Constitution, which will be submitted to Congress, with a view to the admission of Utah into the Union as a State. This has long been an object of Mormon ambition, but it has hitherto been defeated by the detestation with which the peculiar customs of this singular community are regarded throughout the Free States. The Mormons, however, having proclaimed their loyalty to the Federal Government, think the present by no means an unfavourable moment for securing those privileges which in less troublous times they would probably plead for in vain.

A North Carolina paper announces that on the approaching 22nd of February (Washington's birthday), the permanent Government of the Confederate States will be inaugurated at Richmond. President Davis will be installed for six years, and other interesting ceremonies will take place. It will be a memorable and interesting occasion, and a vast concourse of persons, no doubt, will assemble to witness the ceremonies of the day.

A despatch to Cairo from New Orleans on the 10th ult. states that the French residents of the latter place held a large meeting on that day to devise some means of leaving that city and the South, and that a committee was appointed to communicate with the Union commander, General Phelps, at Ship Island, upon the subject.

General Gorcuria has arrived at Washington on important business from the Mexican Government.

The steamer *Mauritius*, with British troops on board, put into St. John's, Newfoundland, for coal, on the 20th ult., having experienced dreadful weather and been obliged to throw many horses overboard.

A horrible war has been raging in the Indian territories and in the Kansas borders between the Confederate Indians and half-breeds, under Albert Pike, and the Federal Creeks, Cherokees, &c., under the Indian leaders Gongs and John Ross. The latter have been defeated with loss and driven out of the country, and it is supposed Ross is killed. The Federal bands under Jennison, in that region are marauding in a manner worthy of their allies—destroying, plundering, and burning all before them; and it is intimated that Jennison, who is one of the blackest of Republicans and fiercest of Abolitionists, is now paying off old scores during the Border-ruffian troubles.

Sacramento is reported to have been again inundated. The late tremendous storms will, it is thought, cause a large increase in the yield of the Placer gold diggings.

THE BATTLE IN KENTUCKY.

The American papers contain full details of the battle at Mill Spring, Kentucky. One correspondent thus describes the action:—The enemy, under the immediate command of Major-General Crittenden, marched, eight regiments strong, from their camp last Saturday night. They entered grand grounds were skirmishing through the greater part of the night with ours. Colonel Wolford's cavalry were doing outpost duty that night, and, by the revelation then and in the battle afterwards, completely cleared away the approach which some unworthy officers have brought upon them. They will always fight well when Wolford is with

The 10th Indiana occupied a wooded hill on the right of the road. On the left was a field, stretching down the hills for several hundred yards. In front of the wood was another field of about twenty acres. The enemy formed in three fields, attacking the Indiana troops both in front and upon their left flank. A section of Captain Standart's battery had been brought up, and was stationed in the road. The attack was here made about seven o'clock in the morning. Colonel Manson coming up to make about just after the attack began, and seeing that his men must be overpowered before the other regiments could come up, ordered his men to fall back, which they did in good order, fighting as they went. Captain Standart reluctantly gave up the privilege of "giving the enemy one good blizzard" from that point, and retired too.

Immediately to the rear of the woods, where the 10th were stationed, is another field, with a deep descent to a ravine, and then comes another dense forest. On the left of the road the clearings continue to the ravine, the sides of which at that point are covered with a growth of scrub oaks and other timber.

After crossing the river another field lies on the left of the road. The 10th retired through the field on the right of the road, and through the woods for about 150 yards to the rear of the ravine. At this point Colonel Fry's 4th Kentucky came up, and formed along the fence which separates the road from the field on the left. There is no fence on the right of the road at that point. The two regiments here formed into the shape of a road at that point. The two regiments here formed into the shape of a road at that point. The two regiments here formed into the shape of a road at that point.

What rebel regiments came through the woods to attack the 10th at this place I have not learned. Those which attacked Colonel Fry were Battle's Tennessee and the 15th Mississippi, the "Wigwag Rifles," and the "Mississippi Tigers," as they loved to call themselves. These were the crack regiments of the enemy, and they sustained their reputation. Again and again they charged across the field, but were always met by the terrible fire of the Kentucky 4th, and were driven back.

At the point of the V died General Zollicoffer. He fell nearer our camp than any other man of his army. He was with Battle's Regiment, his own home friends, born and brought up around him at Nashville. A short distance from him, to his right, a party of his men had been broken from their comrades, and were heading together like frightened deer. Colonel Fry's men were just about to attack them. Colonel Fry himself was at the right of his regiment, at the point of the greatest danger. General Zollicoffer was on foot, and within a few feet of the Colonel. A gun-coat concealed his uniform. Seeing the condition of his men, as the Colonel rode up General Zollicoffer said to Colonel Fry, "Colonel, you would not fire upon your friends, would you?" Colonel Fry supposed, from the General's manner and remark, that he was one of our own officers, and at once replied, "Certainly not, Sir; I have no such intention." He turned and rode a few steps, when one of the General's aids fired at him, wounding his horse. Believing that he was tricked, Colonel Fry at once wheeled and fired at the General. The latter raised his hand to his breast and fell dead. Another ball struck him at the same moment, I believe, in the arm.

The death of their General does not seem to have greatly disheartened the enemy. They continued their attacks with as much vehemence as ever. The 2nd Minnesota Regiment came up and formed along the fence, on the left of the 4th Kentucky. The rebels still extended their line to flank us on that side. The 15th Mississippi charged up to the fence, and men in the two regiments fought hand to hand, existing hold of each other's guns, and trying to drag them through and over the fence, but it was all in vain.

McCook's gallant Dutchmen came up to support the 10th, forming on their right, and with them drove the enemy out of the woods, over the ravine, up the hill, across the field to the right of the road. The 14th Ohio, which, with the 9th, had marched all night to get to the battle, together with the two East Tennessee and the 12th Kentucky Regiments, were coming up. Enemy themselves were in danger of being outflanked and cut off from their retreat. Standart's battery was in full play, with deadly effect on their centre. Kinney's and Whitmore's were advancing. There was no help for it; the day was lost to the rebels, and they must retreat. They were pushed back, flying as they went across the fields. Our deadly Minnie balls told fearfully on their ranks, yet the loss was not all theirs—many of our brave fellows dropped. Colonel Wolford's horse was shot under him as he charged upon their centre. Bob McCook was wounded, and his horse shot under him, but a bullet through the heart would hardly stop him.

On they go. The enemy is driven through the woods, where, an hour and a half before, they nearly surrounded the 10th, the heroes of Rich Mountain. Many regiments are completely broken, and run for the forests on the left. Wood's Alabama regiment breaks for a swamp, and scatters there. It has a home look to them, and is a safer place than the road or the fields. Some regiments act together, and form in a field a mile to the rear of their first position. But Standart's shells, thrown from the hill where the section was so nearly taken, begin to fall among them. They fly again, pursued by our victorious troops. For the third and last time they form, only to be scattered as before. After this the rout is complete. Panic-stricken, they fly in all directions. The pursuit is pressed up to the very intrenchments of the enemy. Two of their pieces have been taken. The third, which they took with them, is only saved to be left behind in their flight across the river. Our cannon open on their camp, our shells falling into their most effective battery, killing four of the men at their guns and driving the rest away. The darkness of nightfall only prevents a general assault, and our troops lie down, hoping in the morning to complete the good work of that Sabbath—a work they had not sought, for they were resting that day, preparatory to the attack which General Thomas had intended to make on Monday.

A southern account of the battle says:—

General Crittenden began the attack at seven o'clock on Sunday morning. The enemy was supposed to be 1500, but afterwards found out to be 11,000 strong. General Zollicoffer was killed early in the action. General Crittenden was wounded. Colonel Carroll took command of the forces, and recrossed the Cumberland River. Our loss was 300. The enemy lost 400 or 500. Rutledge's and McClurg's batteries were left on the field. We marched seven miles. The enemy was repulsed three times, and fell back to their fortifications. They then outflanked us. We retreated to our breastworks, were surrounded, and crossed the Cumberland River under fire at eight o'clock on Sunday night. We lost all our horses, tents, equipments, eleven guns spiked or thrown into the river. Colonels Powell, Battle, Stokes, and Cummings were wounded. Major Fagg was wounded in the hip. General Zollicoffer's body has not been recovered. Our forces were 6000. We are still falling back.

GENERAL "JIM LANE."

The Washington correspondent of a New York paper thus describes, in genuine Yankee style, General "Jim Lane," the commander of the Texan expedition:—

"Jim Lane" is as thorough a daredevil as can be found between the two oceans. I need not describe him to you. Everybody has heard of him. Indiana born, he is a complete type of western manhood—perhaps I might better say north-western manhood—for there is a south-western species of the half-horse half-alligator Arkansas breed, with which he has little in common. There is no rampant coarseness or vulgarity about him—he is quick, self-poised, pleasant in manner, and yet every lineament and every movement attests the man of iron nerve. General Lane, I judge, must have turned fifty; his hair is thin and tinged with grey; but his bright, deep-set eyes, his compressed lip, as well as his prompt step and his quick word, show that his natural force is not yet at all abated. He has never injured himself by dissipation, and his wiry frame yields to no hardship. Possessed of a mind fertile in resources, a courage which nothing can daunt in the choice of means, a resolution equally indomitable in their application; a genius, in short, original and daring, which bounds over the petty obstacles raised by ordinary men—their squeamishness and their precedents, their forms and their regularities; he is a natural leader, one of those to whom men instinctively entrust a desperate enterprise. Two facts will sufficiently illustrate this. As he passed for the first time into Kansas over the Iowa line—the Missouri River being then closed—he met old John Brown coming out of the territory in a wagon containing two or three of his wounded sons. They met as strangers. To Lane's inquiry for the reason of his taking that direction, old John replied that all was lost—the territory gone for ever. Lane protested against it, made Brown turn upon his tracks, hastened with him to Lawrence, rallied the desponding Free State men, inaugurated war to the knife with the border ruffians, and quickly put a new face upon the situation. When he returned last summer from the East, he had no sooner reached home than he was surrounded with armed men demanding of him that he should lead them against Price, who at that time had command of all Western Missouri, and was threatening Kansas. Within one hour from his crossing his threshold he was in his saddle at the head of his column on one of the most dashingly and effective campaigns the history of the war has yet seen. Of such stuff is the chief of the Texan expedition.

ART-UNION OF ENGLAND.—This young society has recently issued a couple of chromo-lithographs to its subscribers of the current year. Of the two subjects we give the preference to "The Stepping-stones," very ably rendered by Messrs. Hanbatt, after the picture by Frederick Goodall. The second subject, "The Island of Zante," is quite as successful as a specimen of chromo-lithography, but Mr. Robinson's colouring is somewhat uninteresting and tawdry, and the subject of his picture is not remarkably interesting.

IRELAND.

THE DRUMMOND GIFT.—The local subscriptions towards carrying out the excellent project of Mr. Alderman Drummond are rapidly coming in. Amongst those who are willing to co-operate in a substantial way is Major-General the Hon. H. L. Powis, who has generously offered to subscribe the sum of £100 towards the erection of a building and £50 a year for the support of the school. An "officer" has suggested "that every retired military man should contribute, according to rank, one month's half-pay or retired allowance. This would be only a small sum from each; nevertheless it would, on the whole, make a considerable amount."

BREACH OF PROMISE.—An amusing breach of promise came before the Dublin Court of Exchequer last week. The plaintiff, Miss Agnes Harrison, is a lady who has passed thirty-five summers, and resides with her brother near Ballyleagh, in the county of Antrim. The ungallant defendant, who rejoices in the euphonious name of Hooks, is one of the "ruling elders" of the Covenanted congregation in the locality, and has gone far beyond the allotted "threescore years and ten." The counsel stated that the defendant, who, when at home, wears the best broadcloth and good clothes, he being a comfortable farmer, and worth over £1000, appeared ridiculously and fantastically dressed in wretchedly poor clothes, with his face dirty, and his appearance very squalid, in order that the jury might be led to believe that he was in extreme poverty. The fair suitor laid her damages at the sum of £300, and the defendant pleaded a denial of the promise. A novel feature of the case was, that both the parties were examined by consent. Much laughter was occasioned by some of the statements made by the defendant when in the witness-box, especially when, at the close of his examination, he turned to the Lord Chief Baron, and, in a mysterious and confidential manner, inquired of him, "Does your Lordship think the case is going in my favour?" The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages, £50.

SMITH O'BRIEN'S ESTATES.—The Dublin Court of Chancery was occupied last week with the estates of Mr. Smith O'Brien. The Lord Chancellor dismissed the petition of the trustees, set aside the trust deeds of 1818, and confirmed the deed of 1861, by which the eldest son becomes possessed of the property, paying his father £2000 a year during his life, as well as charges for the support of the younger children. Mr. Smith O'Brien was cheered on leaving the court by a crowd assembled in the hall.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH MEMORIAL TO THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.—A meeting of the local committee for the city of Edinburgh was held on Friday week in the Council Chambers. A conversation having arisen in regard to the precise functions of this committee, it was explained by Sir John McNeill, on behalf of the sub-committee who had originated the movement, that the object of that committee was to secure that the movement should be in all respects a national one; that they had corresponded with all the counties in Scotland, suggested the appointment of a local committee in each county, and that the city of Edinburgh had been placed on the same footing, with a separate committee to promote the movement among the citizens; that the whole of these local committees were intended to form the aggregate central committee for determining the nature of the memorial and all details in regard to it; and that a meeting of this central committee would be convened so soon as sufficient time had been afforded for the formation of the different local committees, whereupon the duties of the sub-committee would terminate. He added that communications expressing warm approval of the movement had been received from all parts of Scotland, and that there was every reason to believe that the memorial would be of the national character which had been contemplated. The meeting cordially resolved to use their best exertions to promote the memorial.

MRS. YELVERTON MARRIAGE CASE.—Evidence in behalf of the pursuer, Mrs. Yelverton, was again taken in the High Court of Judiciary, Edinburgh, last week. A number of witnesses were examined with a view to show the respectability of the lady and the propriety of her conduct before her marriage with Major Yelverton. The proceedings were again adjourned.

THE PROVINCES.

THE HARTLEY COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—The following verdict has been delivered by the Coroner's jury which has inquired into the recent melancholy occurrence at Hartley:—"That John Gallagher, on the 22nd of January last, was found killed in the workings of New Hartley Colliery, having died therein from the inhalation of gas, being shut up in the yard seam of said colliery on the 16th of said month, when the shaft was closed by the accidental breaking of the engine-beam, which, with other materials, fell into the working shaft of the pit, and, there being no exit therefrom, all access to the deceased was cut off, and that he perished from the cause above mentioned. The jury cannot close without expressing their strong opinion of the imperative necessity of all working collieries having at least a second shaft, or outlet, to afford the workmen the means of escape should any obstruction take place, as occurred at New Hartley Pit, and that in future beams of colliery engines should be made of malleable instead of cast metal. They also take occasion to notice with admiration the heroic courage of the miners and others who, at the risk of their own lives, for so many nights and days devoted their best skill and energies to rescue the unfortunate men who were lost, and that everything that human ingenuity could accomplish was done towards this humane object."

CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COLLIERIES.—A meeting of working colliermen was held at Newcastle on Saturday last, when resolutions were agreed to condemning the single-shaft system, and a petition to Parliament against the practice was unanimously adopted. At the same time it was agreed to represent to the Government that the inspectors had too many mines placed under their charge, and were, therefore, unable adequately to discharge their duty. We are gratified to learn that the subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers amount to close upon £10,000, of which £17,000 has been contributed by the metropolis. This is more than twice as much as was calculated to be necessary for the support of the widows and orphans.

REFORM DEMONSTRATION IN NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Monday night a public meeting was held in Newcastle, in promotion of the objects of the Northern Reform Union. A resolution in favour of a Parliamentary measure of Reform, based on household suffrage and vote by ballot, was adopted; the principal speakers being Messrs. Gregson, J. Cowen, jun., Hatfield, Robinson, and Watson. A memorial to be forwarded to Leicester, urging the electors and non-electors of that borough to support Mr. P. A. Taylor in his candidature for the vacant seat, was also agreed to.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A GIANT.—Mr. James Robinson, butcher, of Hatfield Heath, well known in Essex and Herts from his remarkable figure and size, was last week suddenly seized with illness which in a few minutes terminated fatally. The deceased was the largest man either in Essex or Herts—perhaps in England. He belonged to the Daniel Lambert or Edward Bright race of obese mortals, weighing 36 stone, long weight, measuring over 70 inches round the body, and required a garter which would encircle 22 inches. It required the assistance of eight men to move the corpse. Mr. Robinson was in his forty-fifth year, and usually enjoyed remarkably good health.

TRADE OUTRAGE IN MANCHESTER.—A "traders' union" outrage of a violent nature was committed in Cheetham, Manchester, on Saturday night last. The object which had offended the union men was a brickmaking machine, of the productive powers of which a most glowing account is given. The blind opposition of the brickmakers almost warrants the quality of the machine, and for some time past the brickmakers have been threatening all engaged in the work. A coffin was actually sent to the home of one of the men belonging to the place. On Saturday an attempt was made to blow up the machine, but, fortunately, the attempt was only partially successful.

THE DISTRESS IN BLACKBURN.—The returns submitted to the Blackburn board of guardians on Saturday last show a great increase in the number of persons relieved, and in the cost of relief, during the week. The number relieved in the Blackburn district of the union last week was 5195, against 5074 in the previous week, and the cost had increased from £262 to £297. In the whole union the number relieved was 7331, of whom 2311 were able-bodied, against 6750 in the previous week, of whom 2065 were able-bodied; and 2389, of whom 504 were able-bodied, relieved in the corresponding week of last year. The cost last week of the out-relief in the whole union was £390; in the previous week, £350; in the corresponding week of last year, £130. The daily distribution of soup from the public soup kitchens is now about 2500 quarts, and several private individuals are also distributing soup to their poorer neighbours. The relief fund amounts to about £1700. Last week about 1200 families received each 1lb. of meal; and yesterday the systematic distribution of bread and meal, in quantities corresponding to the necessities of each household, began.

A WHOLE FAMILY SUFFOCATED.—A distressing occurrence took place at Cardiff on Monday morning, causing the death of four persons. A man named Cardiff Connell, residing in a back house in Ellen-street, Newtown, Cardiff, together with his wife and two children, were found dead in their beds. It appears that on Sunday night, the weather being exceedingly cold, and there being no fire in their sleeping apartment, they kindled a quantity of coal in a tin pitcher, which they placed in the room before they went to bed. On Monday morning they were discovered dead in their bed by some of the neighbours, and medical aid was procured, but no sign of life was apparent in either case. The man was forty years old, and his wife twenty-five years, the daughter two years and a half, and an infant boy only ten days old. An inquest was held on Monday evening, and a verdict of "Died by suffocation by inhaling carbonic acid gas" was returned.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT A SHOOTING PARTY.—On Monday an accident of a melancholy nature occurred to a party of gentlemen while out rabbit-shooting in the game preserves of Mr. Walter Long, M.P., at Rod Ashton, North Wilts. It appears that Mr. Theobald, maltster, of Semington, had obtained permission of Mr. Long to have a day's shooting on the preserves, and had invited several friends to join the party. Mr. Alonzo Badham, principal of Show House Academy, Melkham; Mr. W. Eyles, clerk to Mr. Theobald; and Mr. Blanchard, of Steeple Ashton, three of the party, had separated themselves from the rest, and were beating the cover, and had all three emerged into the open, when Eyles's gun, which he was carrying in a horizontal position, suddenly exploded, and the whole charge lodged in Mr. Badham's neck, causing instantaneous death. The deceased was removed to Green-lane Farm, where an inquest was held on the body, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

FRANK OF FORTUNE.—A fortune of £1,000,000 has come into the joint possession of a hitherto poor shoemaker and tailor at Brentwood, Essex. It was at first stated that the shoemaker had matters all to himself, but it now appears that another shares his good luck. The property consists principally of money in the funds, with large estates in the West Indies, and was accumulated by an English emigrant who won the hand of the daughter of a rich planter. Altogether the case is rich in romantic incidents.

FATAL MINE ACCIDENT NEAR TAYSTOCK.—On Monday morning, about nine o'clock, an accident, attended with fatal consequences, occurred at the Wheel Friendship Mine, near this place. It appears that four miners—John Crocker, his two sons, and another man—were working in the 170-fathom level when a portion of the ground gave way, burying the poor fellows beneath a ponderous mass of earth and rock. The elder Crocker, when extricated, was found to be dead; and it is reported that Crocker's two sons had also been released from their sufferings by death. The accident has filled the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the mine with sorrow.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS ALICE.—On Saturday last the treaty between her Majesty and the Grand Duke of Hesse relative to the marriage of Princess Alice was issued. It consists of nine articles. The expenses of the joint establishment are to be defrayed out of the appanage of the bridegroom, which is fixed at 40,000 florins a year, and the interest of the marriage portion of Princess Alice, which is £30,000. Articles 4, 5, and 6 provide for the investment of her Royal Highness's marriage portion and for its disposal in case of there being issue or otherwise. By the 7th article her Majesty promises to secure to her daughter from the time of her marriage the annual sum of £6000, to be received by commissioners named by the Queen, for the sole and separate use of the Princess. The Grand Duke of Hesse engages by the 8th article to secure to her Royal Highness, in the event of the death of his son, a jointure, together with a residence at Darmstadt, and the interest of her marriage portion. Should her Royal Highness become Grand Duchess of Hesse she is to receive the same allowance that former Grand Duchesses have enjoyed. The ratifications of this treaty are to be exchanged "as soon as possible."

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—On Saturday the eastern dome, so far as its main features of construction are concerned, was completed. At three o'clock the centring, or supports, of the twelve ribs were knocked away, and the immense mass of metal stood for the first time supported alone by the columns and groined girders. When the supports were removed, and the whole weight of the dome was thrown on to the columns, the enormous mass deflected only one-eighth of an inch. Those who were present at the ceremony were hoisted to the crown of the dome by a square wooden box, and the tedious ascent by ladders was thus avoided. The first piece of this dome was raised on Dec. 7, so that the largest dome in the world has been completed, so far as the iron-work is concerned, in sixty-two days. There still remains the glazing and some of the minor portions of the work to be completed, but the "big dome" is practically finished. Two months will probably elapse before the domes are entirely finished and painted, and the immense timber staging is removed. On Wednesday the building was formally handed over by the contractors to the Royal Commission, in accordance with the terms of their agreement.

THE ARCHDUKE MAXIMILIAN AND MEXICO.—A Berlin correspondent writes on the 8th:—"We hear to-day that the Archduke Maximilian has already declared his willingness to accept the throne of Mexico, and that the Emperor of Austria also signifies his approval of his Imperial kinsman's determination. The rumour has, perhaps, no unimportant corroboration to fall back upon in a late article of the official *Vienna Gazette*, which comments itself with declaring upon this subject that there is not a shadow of connection between the Mexican and Venetian questions. This is very probable indeed; but when an official gazette touches upon so important a subject as the gift of a crown to a member of the Imperial family, and omits to deny the truth of the rumour, we certainly have every right to set down the omission as an indirect admission of the report. There remains nothing, then, but for the allied armies to proclaim Archduke Maximilian King of Mexico, and have enough bayonets in the country to prevent the new dynasty coming to an untimely end."

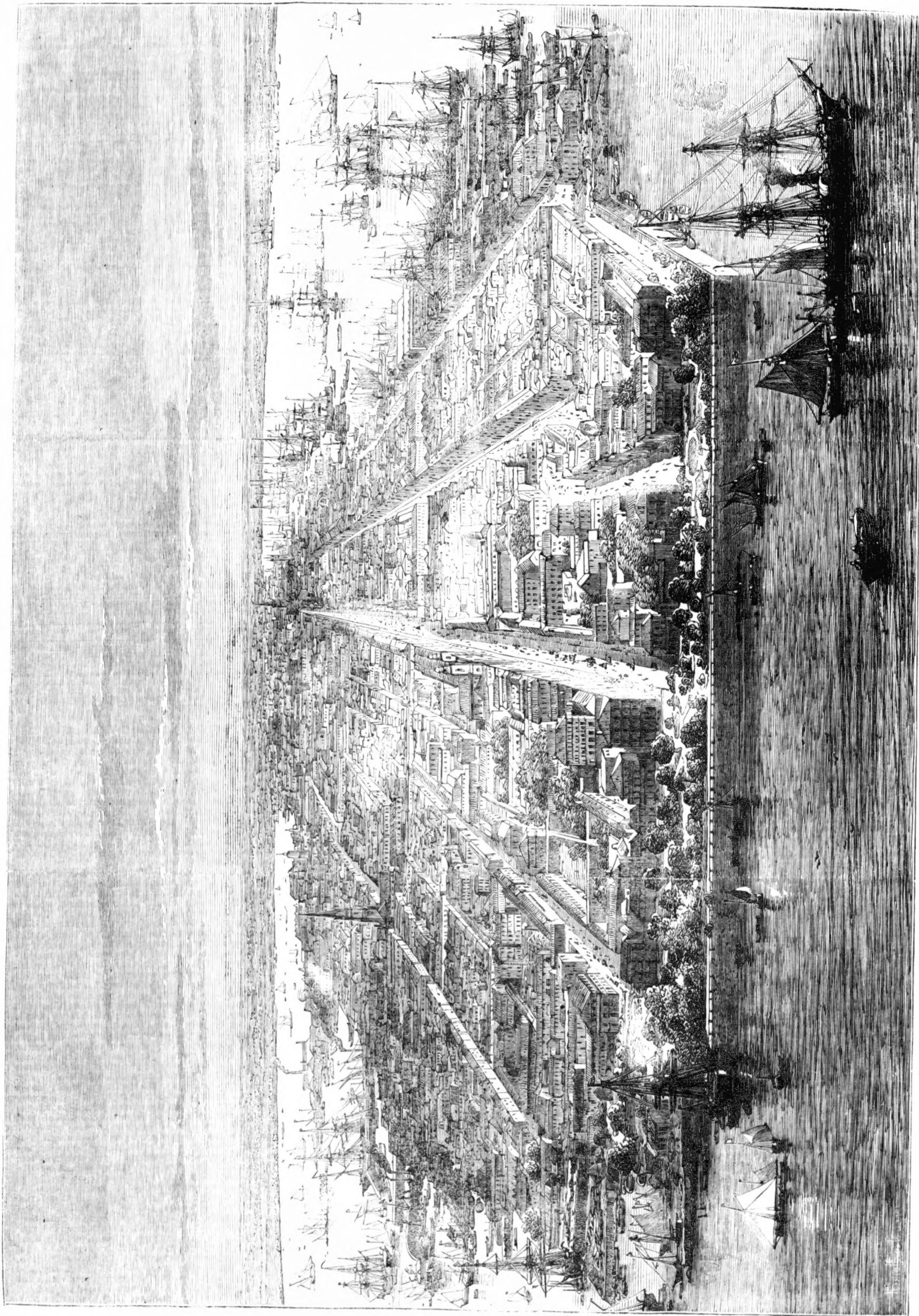
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

RECENT events have made the city of Charleston, South Carolina, world-famous. As the principal seaport of the State of South Carolina, the leader in the secession movement—as one of the great cotton ports of America—as the place where the first blow in the internecine war now raging in America was struck, in the attack on Forts Moultrie and Sumter—as the scene where the great modern act of Vandalism, the sinking of the stone-laden hulks to block up the harbour, has been perpetrated—and as having been but lately almost totally destroyed by fire, Charleston is now, perhaps, as much an object of interest as Sebastopol or Cronstadt were during the Russian War. The accompanying View of the city, and a few particulars respecting it, will, in these circumstances, we hope, be interesting to our readers.

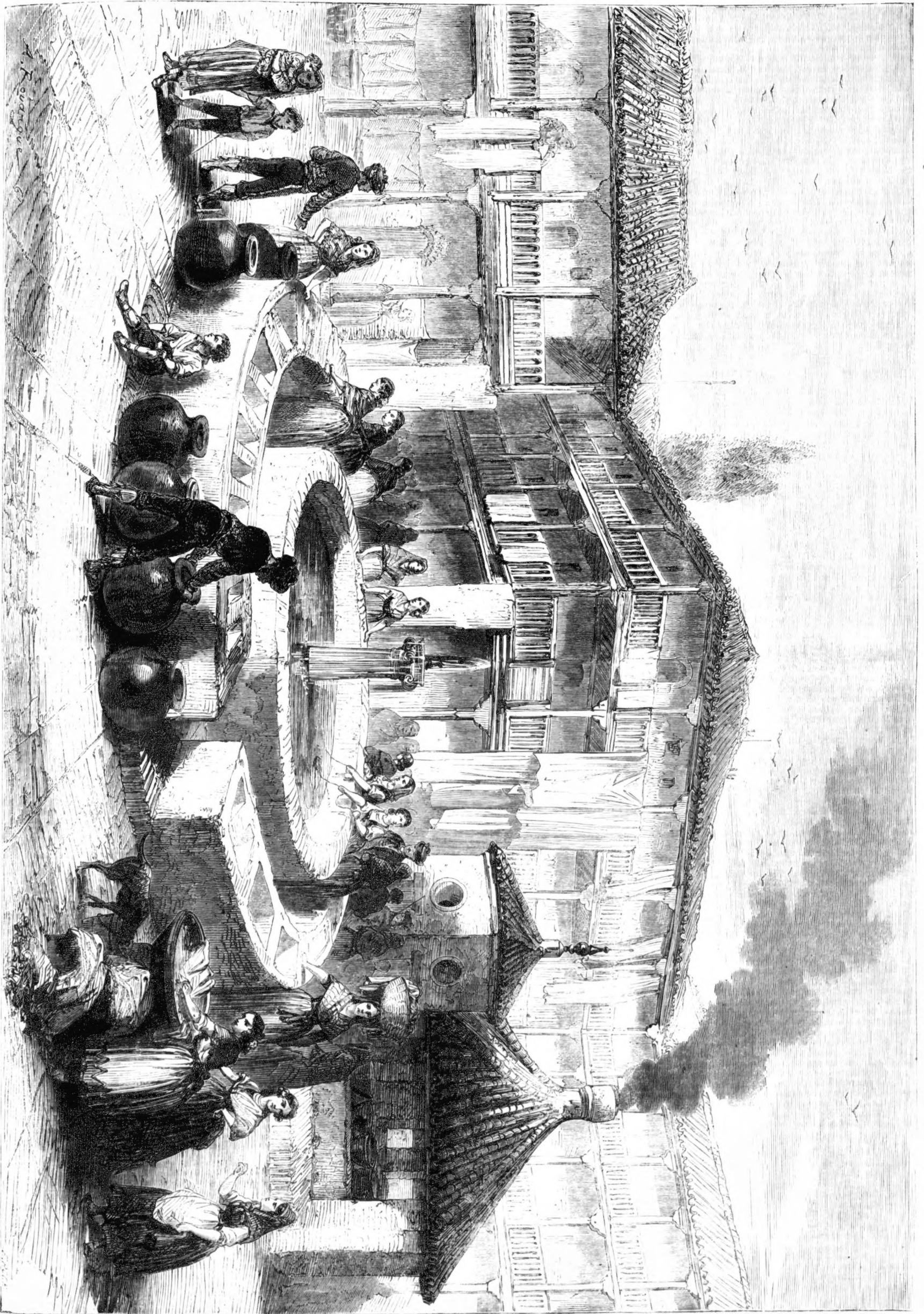
Charleston was founded in the year 1680; and in 1690 a colony of French Huguenots, exiled in consequence of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, settled here and gave the name of Carolina to the State and that of Charleston to the city and the district of which it is the capital, after the then King of France, Charles II. The city stands on a low point of land formed by the confluence of the Cooper and Ashley Rivers, seven miles from the Atlantic. Charleston, though it has not grown so rapidly as some other American cities, has yet participated in the marvellous general progress which has so markedly distinguished the great Western Republic during the present century. In 1800 the population amounted to 18,711; in 1830 to 30,289; and in 1850 to 42,985, of whom 14,692 were slaves. Including the suburb of St. Philip's, the total population at the last-mentioned date was 60,000. Previous to the late great fire Charleston boasted of some respectable if not handsome edifices, such as the city-hall and exchange, the custom and court houses, the gaol, and two arsenals, a theatre, a circus, a college, an hospital, several banks, and about thirty churches. Many of these buildings, however, were destroyed in the late conflagration, which is said to have consumed about 10,000,000 dols. worth of property. The Confederate authorities have voted 2,000,000 dols. to assist in rebuilding the city.

The bay or harbour formed by the confluence of the Cooper and Ashley Rivers is about two miles in breadth, and has deep water up to the city wharves. A lighthouse, with revolving light, stood on a small island two miles and a half north-west of the channel; but this, we believe, has been removed since the breaking out of the war. It was to close up this fine harbour that the Federals lately sunk the "stone fleet" off the mouth of the principal entrance; and it is now stated that a like barbarous measure has been adopted with regard to the other—or Maffit's Channel, as it is called—with the view of completing the work begun by Captain Davies in the old and best-known entrance. More vessels are said to have been sunk in the old channel, those deposited at first not having been sufficient to close the passage; and the New York papers still boldly defend the measure, alleging that there is no proof that these vessels cannot be removed at the termination of the war, and attributing the remarks of the European press on this subject to a desire to find a pretext for interference in the American struggle.

Previous to the occurrence of the secession of the Southern States, Charleston had a considerable export trade in cotton, rice, and tobacco, and imported large quantities of manufactured cotton and woollen goods, together with shoes, hardware, colonial produce, and provisions generally. All that trade, however, has now nearly ceased, and the once busy wharves of Charleston are either deserted or given up to the use of the soldiers of the Confederate army. The city has frequently suffered from the ravages of yellow fever and of fire; but the conflagration which recently occurred, and to which we have already referred, is believed to have been the most serious calamity of the kind that has ever befallen it.



VIEW OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.



THE COURTYARD OF THE GONDOL AT NANTAI

THE CORRAL DEL CONDE.

The traveller who would obtain a thorough knowledge of any city in which he may happen to stay must not confine his attention to those aristocratic precincts where the Court has taken up its residence, nor even to the numerous public exhibitions, which are among the ordinary guide-book sights of the place. He who is only acquainted with the parks, the Horse Guards, Regent-street, White-hall, and the Houses of Parliament, knows no more of London in its really wonderful aspect than the voyager across the Atlantic who hazards only vague guesses about the marvellous submarine life in the deep-sea caves beneath.

So, if the visitor to Seville contents himself with seeing Giralda, Alcazar, the orange market, the tomb of Hernando Colon, the sword of Vargas, and those marvellous Murillos at the Museum, he will not be able to say on his return that he has a real knowledge of the city.

He must wend his way through the narrow streets, across which from one house to another are suspended the gaily-colored *tendidos* or sunshades; he must stop at the corners of the *callejones* to admire the painted Malonnas, before which no good Andalusian passes without a salute; he must lose himself amongst the narrow and tortuous lanes, decipher the inscriptions and bask upon the broad margins of the marble fountains of Merced, Magdalena, Salvador, and of the Square of the Duke, where in former times flourished the orange-groves of the Dukes of Medina-Sidonia. The Corral del Conde, which also takes its name from one of the highest families in Seville, surrounded by old houses from which hang ragged draperies of glaring colours flouting above the projecting balconies, is one of those corners of the city where the artist stops to convey a real picturesque bit of Spanish architecture to his sketchbook. At the Corral all the piquant strangeness of Spanish life is exhibited—the dark flashing eye, the ripe red lip, the true Castilian form. At the corner stands the cigar-seller, with her linen dress relieved by the gay shawl which, fastened at the chin, forms a becoming head-dress; there, too, the matador wraps himself fiercely in his cloak, and stands, with his clinched hand upon his hip, conscious of his own fame; there comes the genuine Sevillian to fill his *bucaros* at the fountain, and assume unconsciously the attitude of an ancient statue; and it is there that Figaro comes to strum on his guitar while Almaviva sings under the worm-eaten balcony to the rustling accompaniment of fluttering fans.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 173.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

When Parliament is opened by Commission, as it was on Thursday week, the ceremony is very dull and unimposing. Few peers attend—and those who do are unrobed; fewer ladies are present, and no peeresses. In the House of Commons Mr. Speaker does not wear his State robes trimmed with gold lace. The Sergeant-at-Arms attends in his plain black Court dress, and no member of the Cabinet thinks it worth while to go to the bar of the Upper House to do obeisance to the mere representative of Majesty. On the late occasion very few—not more than fifty—members of Parliament assembled in the morning, and no Cabinet Minister made his appearance. The Government was represented by the two whips, Mr. Brand and Sir William Dunbar. Mr. Speaker entered the House at twenty minutes to two, prayers were then read by the Chaplain as usual, and about two o'clock the usual cry of "Black Rod!" sounded through the House, and Sir Augustus Clifford in full costume, with his blue ribbon across his chest, marched up the House and delivered his summons. On the return of the Speaker he did not resume his seat in the chair, but passed through the House, and by the back door to his own residence, and the House suspended its sitting until a quarter to four o'clock. The House assembled at a quarter to four instead of four to swear in members, as by statute no member can be sworn after four o'clock.

NEW MEMBERS.

At the time appointed there was no small bustle in the lobby, for the new members were all there, come to be sworn, each armed with a copy of his return to present to the clerk at the table. It is early yet to remark upon the appearance of those who are entire strangers, but of the two old members returned again we may say that Mr. Charles Turner, who was elected for Liverpool in 1852, but was unseated on petition, has undergone little change. He is not quite so erect as he was, and his hair has become greyer. And that Mr. William Cox is exactly the same as he was when he left us in 1850. The same in person, the same in dress; the same short stature and spare form, and smooth, small features, lighted up by the same quick, knowing eye; and the same tailed black coat and waistcoat, and closely-fitting pants, and hat so broad in the brim that the tall man there in the middle of the lobby—the well-known "Jacob Omnium," who, we should say, is 6ft. 5in. if he is an inch—might look down upon said hat and not dream that there was a man underneath. Indeed, Mr. Cox is one of those men who never change, never seem to grow old. Twenty years ago Mr. Cox looked just as he does now, and forty years hence, if he should live so long, he will be still unchanged. *Semper idem* should be Mr. Cox's motto; and what a small man he is! "How strange it is," said a loungee in the lobby to us as Mr. Cox whisked by like a fairy, "that so large a borough as Finsbury should choose so small a member. *Parvenu parva decent* is evidently a rule admitting of exceptions." But laugh not, reader, at Mr. Cox; he has been laughed at too much. He is quick, and, the mistake concerning Wat Tyler notwithstanding, intelligent and clever; and then he is certainly honest and independent, and means well. Indeed, we venture to say that where "there's ane better there's ten waur" in the House than Mr. Cox.

LORD PALMERSTON.

His Lordship did not show in the morning, but at half-past four o'clock he walked into the House. There have been so many rumours abroad about the health of the noble Lord—about gout in the hands, gout in the feet, probable gout in the stomach, and constant sickness, &c.—that we expected to see his Lordship hobble into the House upon two sticks, or, at all events, that his pace would be slower, his form shrunken, and his face pale. But there was nothing of the sort. He marched across the lobby with his usual swing, and in form, and bulk, and feature appeared just the same as we have known him for the last ten years. Whether he will prove as capable of sustaining the fatigue of the Session remains to be seen. The noble Lord went round the division lobby, passed into the House at the back of the Speaker's chair, and thus arrived at his seat. But his friends got a sight of him as he entered and a burst of cheering greeted his appearance, indicating at once his popularity and the security of his position for this Session, barring accidents.

THE MOVER OF THE ADDRESS.

The duty of moving the Address to her Majesty was intrusted to Mr. Portman, the eldest son of Lord Portman. Mr. Portman was chosen to perform this duty as the representative of the landed stratum of society. Mr. Wood, the seconder, was selected as the representative of the mercantile class. Such is the usual etiquette of the House—agriculture first and then commerce. Mr. Portman appeared in the uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the West Somersetshire Yeomanry Cavalry, dark blue, ornamented with yellow braid. Mr. Portman's speech, on the whole, was a success. It was appropriately commonplace, neatly put together, and delivered with much ease and propriety. Now and then there was a break of continuity, as there generally is in speeches learned by heart, but the honorable mover's friends came to his rescue with their cheers, and he soon picked up the last thread of his narrative, and in about half an hour after he arose successfully brought his harangue to an end, no doubt to the great relief of the honourable

gentleman himself and the great joy of his father, Lord Portman, who sat under the gallery.

THE SECONDER, MR. WESTERN WOOD.

Mr. Wood appeared in Court dress, the well-known swallow-tailed coat, silk breeches and stockings, and buckled shoes, with the rapier by his side. But, in truth, Mr. Wood did not appear to advantage in this ancient costume. All that the tailor, and the hosier, and the shoemaker could achieve had been done, but the wearer was not at ease, did not look like a courtier, and as if "to the manner born." Very few men carry this dress well, and men of the merchant class never do. My Lord Charles Russell, the Sergeant-at-Arms, looks perfect in it, and walks about with all the ease and grace imaginable; but then Lord Charles is used to it, has worn it for many years, and, moreover, he is a Lord and Mr. Wood is a merchant, which makes a difference. Nor is Mr. Wood to be complimented upon his debut as a speaker. His voice, to begin with, was pitched to the most sepulchral tone, more suitable to a cemetery chaplain than to a member of Parliament. The conventional House of Commons tone is not good: it is too formal, wants flexibility, and when exaggerated, as it often is, has upon the hearers the effect of an opiate. But Mr. Wood's tone was worse than anything that we ever heard in the House: more dolorous than Mr. Ball's, more solemn than Mr. Newdegate's when the hon. member for North Warwickshire is in his most prophetic mood. Why Mr. Wood should have assumed this tone we cannot tell; perhaps he thought that, as he had to speak of the death of the Prince Consort, it would be right to suit the voice to the subject, and, having once got into such a funereal key, he could not get out of it. It was very odd, though, to hear the hon. member discoursing about the Trent difficulty and the Morocco affair and praising Lord Palmerston in the tone of an undertaker. One would think that he had come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. Neither can we praise the matter of Mr. Wood's speech. What he meant to say no doubt was all right. He intended to utter a string of commonplace platitudes, as all these movers and seconders of addresses do, and which it is very right and safe and has become the established custom to do; but in what queer sentences he packed these commonplaces! For example, did any assembly in the world ever hear such a sentence as this: "He was sure that he only expressed the unanimous feeling, if not of the House, at least of the country, when he declared that the conduct of the Government had received the universal approbation of the nation at large." "At least of the country" is an awkward phrase, seeing that the country is larger than the House; and does not the country include the House? And if the "conduct of the Government has received the universal approbation of the nation at large," must it not have received the approbation of the House and the country?

DISRAELI'S SPEECH.

Disraeli made a set speech upon the death of the Prince Consort, evidently got up especially for the occasion; and it was cleverly done: artistically manufactured, and dramatically delivered. Every sentence was an excellent piece of joinery—planished and polished like burnished steel; and all agreed that it was a clever speech, and praised it much. But it did not produce any marked effect on the House; for, with all its artistic construction, it lacked the Promethean fire of earnestness. We admired it, but it excited no feeling. The speech, however, was highly characteristic, for the right honourable gentleman is utterly devoid of pathos. In all his works (and we have read most of them) we do not recollect a line that touches the emotion of his hearers. He is excellent at description, though his descriptions are sometimes faulty in taste; he can set the House in a roar by his wit; he can point a sarcasm and hurl it at his opponents with damaging effect; and, at times, he can discover something of the quality of humour in his writings and speeches; but over the hearts of his hearers and readers he has no control; and whilst we laugh at his wit, are hurt by his sarcasm, are struck with his descriptive power, we still feel that there is a great separating gulf between him and the bulk of mankind. "One touch of nature makes the world akin." Mr. Disraeli wants that touch. It was a splendid opportunity for an orator, that Thursday night. There were for topics a beloved Prince suddenly snatched away, a widowed Queen, fatherless Princes, and a sorrowing nation for an audience; but Disraeli, though he had evidently prepared himself for the occasion, failed to use it to effect.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

When Disraeli sat down Lord Palmerston rose; but he did not speak with his usual power. There was no sign of bodily feebleness. His voice was still clear and ringing as ever; but we missed the easy flow of words—especially in that part of the speech which referred to the death of the Prince—which generally marks the speeches of the noble Lord. But it is known that Lord Palmerston is not good at a panegyric. Every man has his forte. Lord Palmerston's forte is debate, and especially on foreign affairs; but still there was a marked difference between the noble Lord's speech and that of his predecessors. If there was not the reality of sorrow there was something very much like it, and the effect was apparent.

IRISH FLARE-UP.

What an Irish row! and over, as it were, the tomb of the Prince. Lively gentlemen of Hibernia, you might postpone your quarrels for a few hours. The House meets to-morrow, have it out then. But no, the feeling was too strong to be repressed; and up jumped Mr. Maguire to walk into the Irish Secretary. The cause of quarrel was not a new one; it was a question whether there is great distress in Ireland—a question almost as old as Hibernia itself. Mr. Maguire says that in parts of Ireland there is deep distress. The Irish Government think that the reports are exaggerated, and on this the parties have joined issue; and many a pitched battle and fierce skirmish may be expected upon this vexed question during the coming Session. Of course, Sir Robert Peel followed Mr. Maguire, for the gallant gay Sir Robert is now Irish Secretary, and upon this question of Irish distress he was fully prepared. Like the sailor who, in opposition to the astronomer, declared that the world was not round but flat as the table, he had been to sea. Poor Sir Robert, we do not envy him his position this Session. It is delightful to live in Dublin, to ride about on that magnificent horse of his, or to dash along the streets in his splendid phaeton, and not unpleasant to do the country even in a Bianchini chair, or to have a round or two with a priest; but to be tied to a post night after night to be baited by a hundred irate Paddies, is not a pleasant fate to anticipate. But it must come if Sir Robert keep that Irish secretarship. Every Irishman—Protestant and Catholic, Maguire, Scully, Whiteside, Vance, Grogan, M'Mahon—has come up, or will soon come up, with malice prepense and weapons, prepared to have a go-in at Sir Robert. And baiting the Irish Secretary will no doubt be the prominent Irish amusement of the Session. And Sir Robert is hardly the man to take his baiting coolly, for he can be, if he chooses, as fierce as his foes; and though no doubt he has been schooled to patience, and caution, and reticence, and has resolved to act upon the advice, he will occasionally break bounds, rush upon his enemies, hit right and left, and then we shall have a regular Donnybrook scrimmage.

DIES OUT.

The row, however, did not last long, for Mr. Hadfield had risen to speak just before it began, and his shrill voice had acted upon the members like a dinner-bell; and so it happened that when the Irish business came on the House was nearly empty; and as for want of fuel all fire goes out, so this Irish conflagration soon went out of itself. Besides, there are not many Irish members in town yet. In about a month badger-baiting will be at its height.

MR. MASON.

Immediately after prayers, Mr. Mason, the Confederate Commis-

sioner, took his seat under the gallery. He was introduced by Mr. Gregory, the member for Galway, who sat near this notable stranger. It was remarked, also, that Mr. Lindsay seemed to be very intimate with Mr. Mason, from which we argue that the hon. member for Tynemouth has adopted the Southern ticket—which is passing strange, and will be hardly palatable to the electors of Tynemouth and North Shields.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MEMORIAL TO THE PRINCE CONSORT.

Earl GRANVILLE, in reply to a question from the Earl of Derby, said that on Friday next he intended to make a statement to the House in reference to the application of the funds raised by public subscription for a memorial to the late Prince Consort.

TREATMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS IN AMERICA.

The Earl of CARNARVON addressed an inquiry to Earl Russell with regard to the truth of the arrest, imprisonment, and ill-treatment of a Canadian subject under order of Mr. Seward, and expressed his intention to move for the correspondence on the subject.

Earl Russell said that the published report of the affair was in the main correct; but said that Mr. Seward had assured Lord Lyons that the oath of allegiance had been enforced under the impression that Mr. Shepherd was an American citizen, and he had been set at liberty on condition that he should not proceed to the Southern States. In the present state of affairs the Federal Government claimed the right of using extraordinary powers, not only over their own citizens, but those of foreign countries resident in the States. Against this doctrine her Majesty's Ministers had firmly protested. He had no objection to produce the correspondence.

The Earl of CARNARVON thought that her Majesty's Government ought not to content themselves with a simple remonstrance, but should demand reparation for the injury inflicted upon Mr. Shepherd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The report on the Address was brought up, and, on the motion that it be agreed to,

Mr. GREGORY observed that he had been unwilling the preceding night to disturb the unanimity of the vote on the Address; but there was one point connected with the conflict now going on in America which was of much importance—the condition of the blockade of the Southern ports. There was reason to doubt whether this blockade was effective, whether it was more than a paper blockade, and he should take an early opportunity of bringing this question before the House.

AFTER SOME REMARKS BY ADMIRAL WALCOTT,

Mr. BENTINCK said he had heard the announcement made by Mr. Gregory with pleasure. If it should appear that the blockade was a mere paper blockade the recognition of it by us would be a violation of the principle of non-intervention.

MANAGEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

On the motion of Sir G. GRAY, leave was given to bring in a bill for the better management of highways in England.

OATHS AND DECLARATIONS.

In Committee of the whole House Mr. HADFIELD moved for leave to bring in a bill to render it unnecessary to make and subscribe certain declarations as a qualification for offices and employments.

After a protest from Mr. NEWDEGATE, leave was given, and the bill was brought up.

WHIPPING PRISONERS.

Mr. HADFIELD also obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish punishment by whipping for offences committed by criminal prisoners; and to amend so much of the Act for the more speedy trial and punishment of juvenile offenders as relates to the whipping of offenders.

AMENDMENT OF THE IRISH POOR LAW.

Leave was given to Mr. HENNESSY to bring in a bill to amend the law for the relief of the poor in Ireland.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IMPRISONMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS IN AMERICA.

The Earl of CARNARVON again drew attention to the arrest and imprisonment of Canadian British subjects by the Government of the Federal States of America.

Lord DERBY, although ready to make allowance for the difficulties of the Federal Government, condemned in very strong terms the manner in which British subjects had been treated by the United States' Government and the uncourteous replies made by Mr. Seward to the remonstrances of the British Government. He wished to know whether, in a case of arrest of a British subject, it was made a condition of being brought to trial that he should forswear his allegiance to his own country, and, if the right of arrest on suspicion were admitted, whether subsequent ill-treatment was justifiable.

Lord MALMESBURY asked whether the accounts of the British Consuls relating to the blockade of the Southern ports would be included among the other papers on American affairs. He had been told that Mr. Mason, since his arrival in London, had represented that several hundred vessels had been run the blockade. In the course of his speech he corrected a misrepresentation which existed in regard to Lord Derby's views on the blockade, and observed that the question of breaking the blockade was one of time, and for the decision of the Government alone. He condemned the policy of the declarations of the Congress of Paris in regard to blockades. The noble Earl also asked a question with reference to the recent assassination of a British subject at Pisa.

Earl RUSSELL said the American Government claimed some right to arrest all suspected persons, no matter what their nationality might be; but that he believed Mr. Seward was not aware that the three persons arrested claimed to be subjects of Great Britain. In cases where an oath of allegiance had been tendered to British subjects it had been under the mistake that they were citizens of the United States. In one case in which it had been done the British subject had previously announced his intention of forswearing his allegiance. A correspondence on the imprisonment of these persons had taken place with the United States' Government, and Mr. Seward had explained that the three men had been arrested for treasonable practices, and that they had not been brought to trial owing to the suspension by President Lincoln of the *habeas corpus* in the United States. With regard to the blockade, the noble Earl said that the ports blockaded were but few, and that the difficulty of blockading the Southern coast had not been so great as had been represented. From inquiries he had made, he believed that the majority of the vessels which had succeeded in running the blockade were of small tonnage. The papers which were in preparation would afford all the information of which her Majesty's Government was in possession. Though he (Earl Russell) had disapproved the principles laid down in the declarations of Paris, yet, as they had been agreed to, he thought they must be maintained. With regard to the murder of Dr. McGearty at Pisa, her Majesty's representative at Turin had addressed an urgent remonstrance to the Italian Government on the subject.

Some conversation subsequently took place between Earl Granville, the Earl of Malmesbury, and Earl Russell with reference to the interpretation of international law arising out of the Paris declaration of 1856.

THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL.

Earl GRANVILLE stated, in reply to the Earl of Derby, that no conclusion had been arrived at with reference to the application of the subscriptions towards the memorial to the late Prince Consort, but that he believed her Majesty was prepared to give an opinion upon the subject when the proper time arrived.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. CORDEN gave notice that he would on an early day bring before the House the subject of international maritime law as it affects the rights of belligerents.

In reply to Mr. Hopwood, Sir G. GRAY said the Government were not prepared with any measure on the subject of church rates.

On the order of the day for considering the Lords Commissioners' (Queen's) Speech,

THE INCOME TAX.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY called attention to the unjust and vexatious manner in which the income tax was assessed and collected, and complained that of late the "screw" had been applied in the shape of speculative surcharges, which favoured the general impression that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was endeavouring to make a ninepenny tax yield as much as a tuppenny.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, promising that the subject was too complicated to be discussed incidentally, expressed his belief that cases of abuse were rare, and that any grievances were incidental to the nature of the tax rather than to the conduct of the persons concerned in its collection. Some of these persons were not responsible to the Government, and, though the system, he admitted, was not satisfactory, there were difficulties, which he explained, in the way of its improvement. There was no appeal from the decision of the Commissioners; but where they had committed a

palpable error in principle, he thought it was the duty of the Government to afford relief.

Mr. BENTINCK added a few words in support of the view taken by Sir H. Willoughby.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT.

Mr. CLIVE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to parol assessments in England.

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY BY FIRE.

Mr. HANKEY moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the existing state of the legislation, regarding arrangements for the protection of life and property against fires in the metropolis. The hon. gentleman stated that no change had been made in the law with relation to fires since 1774, notwithstanding the enormous increase of the metropolis in population and wealth.

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN seconded the motion.

Sir G. GREY did not oppose the motion, regarding the subject as one peculiarly fit for a Parliamentary inquiry.

The motion was agreed to.

EXCHEQUER BILLS, ETC.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to amend the Law relating to Supply Exchequer Bills, and to charge the same on the Consolidated Fund," and to repeal the provisions of an Act by which authority is given to the Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury to fund Exchequer Bills.

Leave was also given to Sir Charles Wood to bring in a bill to provide for the registration and transfer of the East India Five per Cent Stock at the Bank of Ireland, and for the mutual transfer of such stock from and to the Banks of England and Ireland respectively.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Lord TRURO gave notice that, on next Tuesday week, he intended to call their Lordships' attention to the state of the volunteer movement, and to inquire whether the Government were disposed to grant further aid to that force; and, if so, of what nature and to what extent?

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

The Earl of St. GERMAN (Lord Steward of the Household) brought up the answer of her Majesty to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which was in the following terms:—"I thank you sincerely for your loyal and dutiful address, and especially for your affectionate condolence and the concern expressed for me in my deep affliction."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRISH LEGISLATION.

In reply to a question from Mr. Dawson, Sir R. PERKINS stated that he intended to ask for leave to bring in a bill for the registration of births and deaths in Ireland; but that with regard to the alteration of the present law for the solemnisation of marriage in that part of the United Kingdom, the subject was still under the consideration of the Government.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—THE ESTIMATES.

Mr. WHITE submitted a resolution to facilitate the business of the House, to the effect that so soon as the Estimates are ready one night in each week be devoted to their consideration, and that no motion for going into Committee of Supply should be made on that day, except by express permission of the House.

Mr. W. EWART seconded the motion.

Sir G. GREY admitted that if it were agreed that one day in the week, say Thursday, should be appropriated to the consideration of the Estimates, and that the Speaker should then leave the chair, and the House go into Committee, without question the Estimates would undergo a more searching investigation, and the business of the House be more satisfactorily conducted than at present. He granted also that, in substance, the change proposed by the hon. member would conduce to the more efficient dispatch of business, and the more satisfactory discharge of their most important duties. In its present form, however, the motion would leave it open to any hon. member to call attention to any subject whatever. It would consequently involve the House in long debates, and defeat the very object its promoter had in view. The right hon. Baronet suggested that it would be better to provide that, whenever on Thursdays the Committee of Supply stands as the first order of the day, the Speaker should leave the chair without any debate being allowed on that order, and that the House should then resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. PAULI expressed his apprehension that the proposition, if agreed to, would be a serious inroad upon the privileges of the House.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS supported the motion. The duty of controlling the large expenditure was not efficiently performed by the House for want of that time which was consumed in the discussion of questions of no public interest.

Mr. WALPOLE recommended the House to be upon its guard before it adopted a motion that might have the effect of diminishing the check and control which unofficial members of the House ought to have over the public expenditure. He pointed out cases in which such a resolution as the one proposed would have that effect, and urged upon Mr. White and Mr. Williams that, if they were desirous of controlling the expenditure, they could accomplish their object better by adhering to the old usage of the House.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Baillie and Sir G. C. Lewis. Mr. DISRAELI opposed the motion, which, he said, was inspired by the desire of certain gentlemen below the gangway to have the proceedings of the House regulated so as to suit their own convenience. He did not believe with the hon. member for Lambeth that the public money was squandered by the present mode of voting supply, and he appealed to the circumstance that Mr. Williams himself had never succeeded in reducing a single vote by a single stiver during the last twenty-five years as a proof of the truth of his statement.

Lord PALMERSTON pointed out the objections which he entertained to the motion in its present form, and recommended that it should be withdrawn in order that at some future time the House might take into consideration the suggestion thrown out by Sir George Grey.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. AYRTON obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the recovery of damages by workmen and servants, and of compensation by the families of workmen and servants killed by accidents.

Mr. M. MILNES also obtained leave to bring in a bill to render legal certain marriages of affinity. The hon. gentleman said that the bill would be similar to that of last Session, except that he proposed to extend its operation to Ireland and Scotland.

Sir C. DOUGLAS (for Sir J. Trevelyan) moved for leave to bring in a bill to abolish church rates. Permission was granted.

Mr. BRISTOW obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Metropolis Local Management Act.

Leave was also given to Mr. COLLIER to bring in a bill to prohibit the payment of expenses of conveying voters to the poll in boroughs; and to Mr. NEWDEGATE for a bill to establish a charge in lieu of church rates, for the commutation thereof, and to afford facilities for the provision of other funds applicable to the purpose of church rates.

THE MURDER IN MARYLEBONE.

In answer to a question by Mr. Lewis, Sir G. GREY said he knew nothing of the circumstances connected with the murder of Mr. Wincott but what he had gathered from the reports in the public newspapers. He presumed that the magistrate before whom the case was brought did not consider that the evidence before him justified him in committing more than the one man for trial upon the charge of wilful murder. He (Sir G. Grey) had not called upon the magistrate for the reasons upon which his decision was based, and there was the less reason for doing so as he understood that the coroner's jury had returned a verdict of wilful murder against the whole four, and it was obvious that nothing should be said in the House to prejudice their case, which must come before a jury.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House met for a few minutes, but no business of importance was transacted.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REVISED EDUCATIONAL CODE.

Earl GRANVILLE made a similar statement to that of Mr. Lowe in the House of Commons on the Revised Code of Education, and explained the modifications that were contemplated.

The Earl of DUNDEE suggested that before any discussion took place upon the proposition time should be given for consideration of the subject. The suggestion was adopted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. BRAND a new writ was ordered to issue for the county of Longford in the room of Colonel Luke White, who had been appointed to the office of Lord of the Treasury.

THE HARTLEY COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

Sir G. GREY, in reply to a question from Mr. H. B. Sheridan, said that the paper, which had been laid on the table, and which had been printed that morning, would contain all the information the Government had at present in reference to the Hartley Colliery accident. They had not yet received any report from the Inspector of Mines; but when the Government received that report they would carefully consider it, together with the recommendation of the jury, with a view to prevent, as far as human power could, a recurrence of such calamities.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Mr. BENTINCK asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, in consequence of the repeated recurrence of railway accidents, it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce during the present Session any measure founded on the report of the Committee on Railway Accidents, which was laid upon the table of the House in the year 1858?

Mr. GIBSON said it did not appear from the reports that any new circumstances had arisen during the past year which warranted interference necessary; therefore there was no intention on the part of Government to introduce any bill. Although many lamentable accidents occurred last year, yet the whole number of accidents during 1861 was less than in any year, except 1857 and 1858, since 1851, though the mileage had increased fifty per cent and the passengers 100 per cent.

THE WARRIOR.

Lord C. PAGET, in reply to Sir J. Pakington, said he had received a most favourable account of the sailing qualities of the Warrior.

THE REVISED EDUCATIONAL CODE.

Mr. LOWE, in laying certain papers on the table relative to the revised educational code, took that opportunity of making his promised statement relative thereto. The revised code had been for the last six months under the careful consideration of the Government. The object of the original code was to give aid to voluntary efforts in educating the children of the labouring classes. The grant to those schools was given on the certificate of the inspectors of the Privy Council. The duty of the inspector was to report on the condition of the school generally, but not to examine into the religion of the children, with the exception of those of the Church of England, and that was done, not as inspector, but under another power which he was clothed. There were three grants given under the Minute of Committee of Council. The first and most prominent of these was the capitation grant, which last year amounted to £77,000. The next was the grant to certificated teachers, and the augmentation grant. The certificates that were given to teachers, after an examination, enabled them to take situations which otherwise they could not obtain; and the augmentation grant was a money value given to those teachers, and in the last year these grants amounted to £122,000. The third was the pupil-teachers' grant, and that amounted to £300,000, making a total of £699,000 for the one year. The Committee of Council had received the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the condition of those schools, which had been very carefully considered by the Committee. He would now proceed to state the reasons which had induced the Committee to come to the decision they had. The system that had been tried was not laid down as a permanent scheme, but it was thought that, after it had been in work some time, the experience to be obtained from it would enable them to form a sound practical foundation on which to carry out the education of the people. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to show how difficult it was to regulate the grants to the most deserving schools, and, having compared the efficiency of the children educated in those schools immediately under the jurisdiction of the Committee of Council with those to whom they gave grants, said the superiority was greatly in favour of the former. The Committee of Council had no check against the persons who received the grants; all they could do was to see that, in the main, the money was not misapplied. Under the old system they had 9937 principal teachers, 8698 assistant teachers, 890 junior teachers, 16,277 pupil-teachers, and 2527 Queen's scholars; making an array of something like 38,000 receiving Government pay. He then proceeded to support the report of the Commission, and, although he did not say the reports of the inspectors were not useful to a certain extent, they were totally incapable of giving that clear and definite information which the Committee of Council required to prevent a wasteful extravagance of the public money and to make the system a permanent and useful one. With regard to the question of expense, it was their duty to see that, though they could not control a large expense, yet that there was no extravagance, and that they got value for the money they spent. Many of the schools were supported by three sources of income—namely, the pence from the children's parents, the charitable subscriptions, and the Government grant. The two latter were about the same in amount, but when it was considered that there was no less than £300,000 paid for pupil-teachers by the Government to which the subscriptions did not contribute, it made the difference very great between the two sources. He thought it was an extravagance to pay anything for the pupil-teachers. He also thought that they were paying too much for the masters, whose salaries had rather increased than diminished. There was one great difficulty they had to contend against, and that was the impossibility of interfering with the rights of parents over their children. Compulsory education was out of the question, for though they might have the right to make the children go to school they had no right to deprive the parents of the 4s. or 6s. a week which they received from those children's labour, and which their necessities would not enable them to do without. All they could do, therefore, was to make the system as perfect as possible for those children that could attend the schools, and to form evening schools for those who could not attend the day schools. He objected to the present system, which supported nearly 40,000 persons, for it would have one of two effects—either the Minister would have a strong influence over them, which would be very bad, or they would have a strong influence over him (as at present), and that would be still worse, for then he would be afraid to refuse to comply with all their demands. This movement had in one respect, been very successful, for it had caused large sums of money to be drawn forth. That, however, was no proof of the success of the scheme, for he believed that many who subscribed their money could but ill afford it, such as the clergy, upon whom it bore very hard. These were the objections to the system, and they had come to the conclusion that they should do away with the annual grants and substitute for them a capitation grant. The next question was how that capitation grant was to be given. The Commission recommended that one-half should be on the inspectors' certificate and the other half on examination. The Committee, however, did not adopt that recommendation, but proposed to give the grant of one penny per head for a certain number of attendances, to be decided by examination only. They had received numerous deputations from Scotland, and they recommended, for the present, that the new code should not extend to Scotland. They next proposed to make infants entitled to the capitation grants, prior to their attaining the age of six years, without examination. The grant, however, to be of a lower grade than for children who had undergone their examination. With regard to the training colleges, they required further consideration, as they had lost their voluntary character and become Government institutions, and they therefore proposed to let them stand over to a more convenient opportunity. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to explain the minor alterations proposed to be made in the code, and combated the arguments raised against it. The Archbishop still had the paramount power over the religion taught in Church schools. Having fully explained his plan, he said he could not promise that his system should be either economical or efficient; the present system was neither economical nor efficient; but he would promise that if his were not efficient it would be economical, and if it were not economical it would be efficient. After reading a great deal of the evidence of the schoolmasters before the Commission, he said they were too apt to consider what the system had made them instead of what it found them; and therefore he urged the House not to be too much swayed by the complaints of those individuals. Touching the allowance to teachers, he contended that the withdrawal of that allowance was not taking it from them but from the managers, and they would have it again in the shape of a capitation grant, so that if they were zealous their incomes would not be diminished. The Committee proposed to protect the schoolmaster in one of the clauses by providing that his salary should be three times the amount of the augmentation grant, and that the amount of that grant should be secured by a first charge on the money the Government had to give the school. The right hon. gentleman then pointed out the advantages his system would have over the present one.

Mr. DISRAELI would refrain from making any remark on the merits of the revised code, but he could not help expressing his surprise that the Government had not propounded this scheme at the end of last Session instead of waiting till after the prorogation of Parliament to make known their intention of creating a thorough revolution. Such a course was unconstitutional, and pressed with great hardship, and required grave consideration; and he hoped the House would not come to any hasty decision on the question.

After a few remarks from Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Caird, and Lord Robert Montagu,

Mr. LOWE briefly replied.

Sir J. PAKINGTON admitted the importance of the question, and would approach the discussion of it with calmness and impartiality.

Mr. WALPOLE offered some suggestions as to the form in which the matter would come before the House.

Sir G. GREY said the Government were anxious to discuss it in the shape most convenient to the House; but the usual course was to lay the paper on the table and then let any member make a motion disapproving of any portion of it or raise a discussion when the Government asked for a grant of a sum of money.

The minute was then laid on the table.

MR. MILNER GIBSON AT ASHTON.

On Monday evening Mr. Milner Gibson, President of the Board of Trade, delivered his annual address to his constituents at Ashton-under-Lyne. In the course of his speech the right hon. gentleman said that, great as had been the pressure on trade during the past year, as shown by the decrease of exports, it did not appear to have been so severe as was the pressure from the autumn of 1857 to the autumn of 1858. The total value of the exports from the United Kingdom in 1861 was £125,115,000, against £135,891,000 in 1860. The decrease in the twelve months from November, 1857, to October, 1858, was about £15,000,000. In the year just ended the percentage decrease of our exports had been heavier upon linens and iron than upon cotton; whilst in coal, machinery, and pig iron, exports showed an increase. Our exports to the United States had decreased by £12,500,000, or forty-two per cent. Our exports to France, exclusive of corn, had been £7,944,724 in 1861 against £5,244,703 in 1860; but if the increased export to France for the whole year had been in the same ratio as it was from Sept. to Dec., 1861, since the new treaty had been in operation, the year's total would have been over £10,000,000. Comparing the last four months of 1861 with the same period of 1860, the exports to France had increased by eighty-one per cent. The imports from France in 1861 had been nearly £15,500,000, against £12,783,000 in 1860. The exports to Italy during 1861 had been £5,780,380, against £1,514,287 in 1860—the chief increase being to Naples and Sicily. After expressing his satisfaction at the repeal of the paper duty Mr. Gibson referred to the civil war in America. He looked upon the severance of the United States as a calamity for the world; but he spoke strongly in favour of strict neutrality as the duty of England. He thought our Government had done its duty in the Trent dispute, and he was sorry to hear Lord Derby regretting that the new rule was being adjusted by England of not taking our enemies' goods from the ship of our friend. In the course of his speech Mr. Gibson replied to a letter to him on behalf of the Church Defence Association, and declared that he held it not inconsistent with his position as a member of the Church of England that he should believe in the great Protestant principle of the right of private judgment and of religious equality.

Subsequently the meeting, which was extremely crowded, terminated in disorder, on the apparent opening of discussion by some partisans of the Church Association, which led to a rush on the platform, and the Mayor declared the proceedings closed.

A TEST FOR ARSENIC.—Dr. Letheby recommends the following method of detecting the presence of arsenic in wreaths and dresses:—"Put a drop of strong liquid ammonia (liquor ammoniac, the druggists call it) upon the green leaf, or dress, or paper, and, if it turns blue, copper is present; and copper is rarely, if ever, present in these tissues and fabrics without arsenic being also present; the green compound being a sesquioxide of copper. I have tested papers and dresses in this manner more than a hundred times, and have never failed to discover arsenic when the ammonia changes the green into blue. It is, therefore, indirectly a very reliable test; and if every lady would carry with her, when she is shopping, a small phial of liquid ammonia, instead of the usual scented bottle, the mere touch of the wet stopper on the suspicious green would betray the arsenical poison and settle the business immediately."

TIGER-HUNTING IN JAVA.

The tiger has always been the type of ferocity and stealthy cruelty, and the annals of the chase furnish no stories more exciting than those which relate to the varied means employed by the hunters of different nations to destroy this terrible enemy of their flocks and herds, an enemy whose cunning is only equalled by its rapacity.

In India, the officers of our army and other Europeans, principally Englishmen, contrive to wage perpetual, and not altogether unsuccessful, warfare against the foe, although the loss of human life from the attacks of savage beasts is still somewhat startling. Notwithstanding that during two years the Government paid 14,386 rupees for the destruction of 4225 wild animals, there were killed in 1859 six men, one woman, and 467 children, besides 119 cases of injury; and in 1860 nine men, four women, and 432 children, besides 110 cases of injury. Of the number of animals destroyed in these two years, forty-seven were tigers, of which twelve were killed in 1859, and thirty-five in 1860.

The native herdsmen of the countries infested by these deadly foes have many original and ingenious devices, some of which exhibit the courage of the hunters, and others their marvellous faculty of keeping themselves out of harm's way.

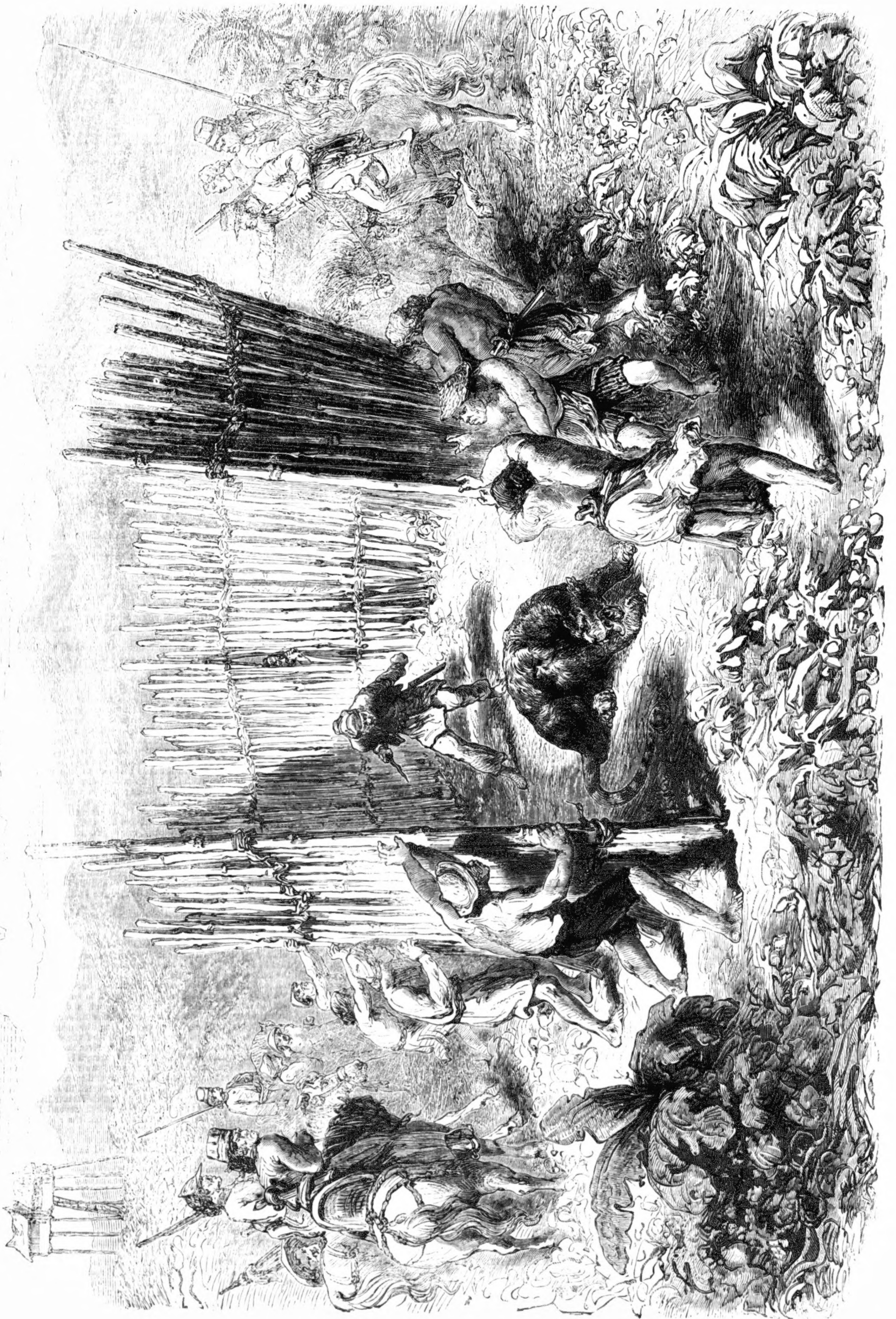
One of the former is practised in India, where the herdsmen who discover a carcass half-devoured by a tiger at once construct near the spot a bamboo platform or scaffold some eighteen feet high, to the top of which mounts a man of strength and courage sufficient for the task, armed with a matchlock loaded with a slug of iron, and that thick-backed, keen-edged sword called a "tulwar." There he waits alone until the tiger comes back to his prey, and, upon the first favourable opportunity, fires upon the enemy, who, should he be only wounded, and afterwards attempt to leap upon the stage, must be cut down with the "tulwar" or dispatched by the matchlocks of the party who have retired to a safer vicinity.

Others of the more timid natives resort to poisoning the carcass of the stolen bullock, and those of an inventive genius construct traps, some of which are remarkable for their simplicity. One of these is similar to the ordinary brick bird-trap made by our own country boys, and consists of a sort of box formed of strong stakes, and with a looking-glass placed in such a position that the tiger will see his own reflection, and, with feline curiosity, advance to inspect it, and ultimately clamber into the inclosure. Once there, the heavily-weighted lid shuts upon him, and he is soon dispatched. The plan of the people of Oude is simpler still. They catch their tigers there with birdlime of a very powerful description. Having discovered the track to the beast's lair, they spread this birdlime upon the broad leaves of the praus-tree, and, strewing the smeared leaves about, retire to await the result. Let but the tiger tread upon one of these leaves and his destruction is almost certain, for in his efforts to disengage it from his paw he becomes so angry that he is sure to plaster his hide and tail with two or three more of the offensive impediments. Then he begins to bite, and roar, and roll, and is easily destroyed by a shower of bullets.

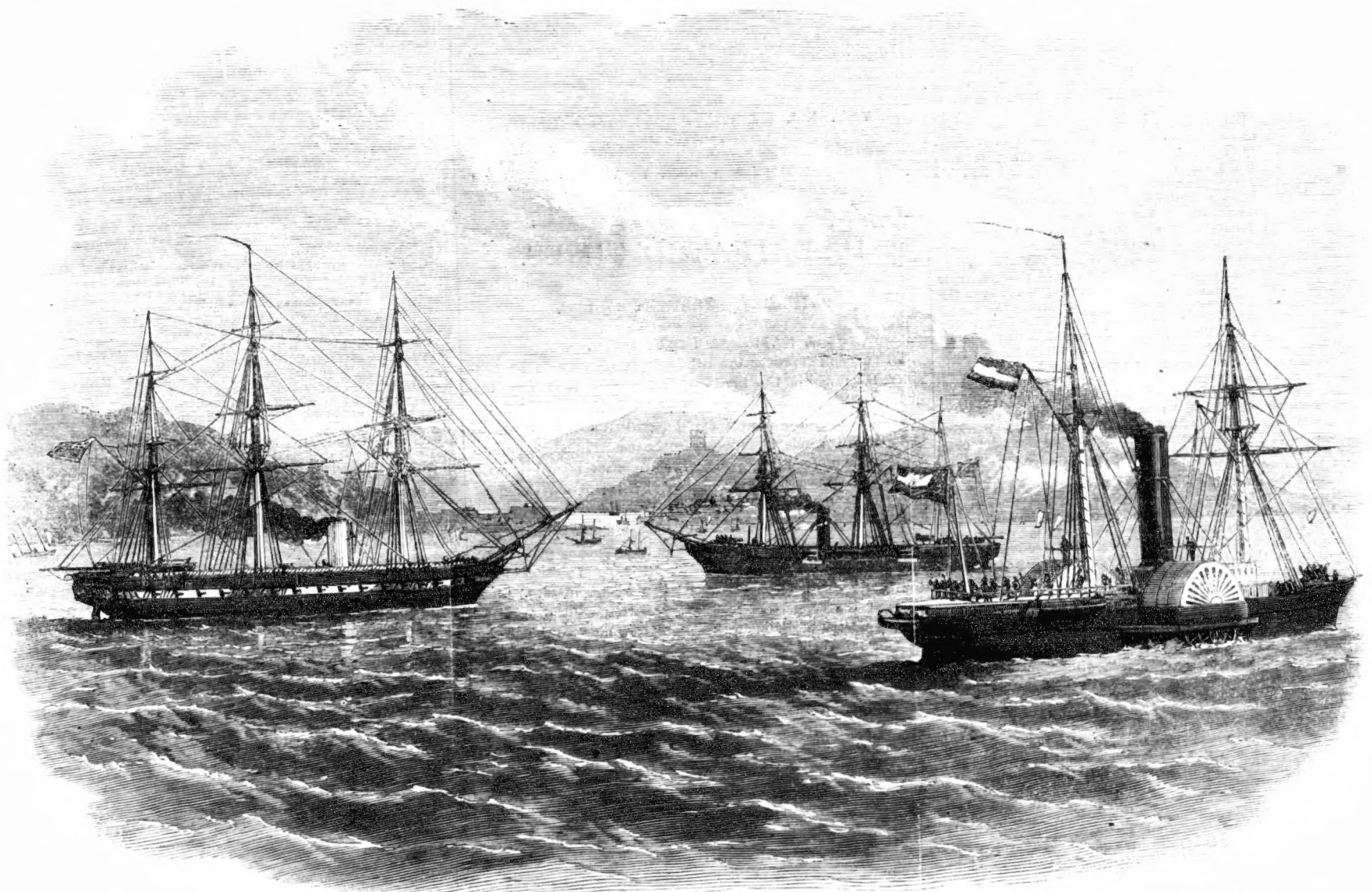
A simple and perhaps a bolder method is to construct a strong bamboo cage, with the bars pretty far apart, and to carry it to the jungle, where the hunter, armed with the tulwar, gets inside and waits for his antagonist. Once smelling the man, the tiger will attempt to get at him through the bars of the cage, and, rearing himself against their slippery surface, receives the sharp and heavy weapon full upon him or has it thrust through his heart.

In Java these bamboo screens or cages are used for hunting the tiger, but there they are employed by several men in concert, who go out with the intention of surprising the dreadful brute into a helplessness which leads to his death. A Dutch farmer having received a nocturnal visit from the enemy summons several Malays to his assistance, and at once endeavours to track the robber to his lair. Having succeeded, he summons his party, and each of these Malay attendants provides himself with a number of bamboos strongly strung together like a hurdle, and carried in the same way as the Roman fasces or a ramoneur of modern times. Arrived at the tiger's den, the men advance under cover of their bamboo hurdles until the prey is not only surrounded but immensely astonished at the extraordinary phenomenon which presents itself; then they gradually inclose him with the light but slippery wall, and, while he crouches in mingled wrath and terror, a bold and experienced hunter enters behind and dispatches him with the terrible Malay "creese." Then the rest emerge from behind their screens; the trophy is borne home on a triumphal bier, and his skin adorns the couch of the chief of the expedition.

It is one of the Royal pastimes of Java to organise a fight between a tiger and a buffalo trained for the purpose. It is a savage and sickening spectacle, the tiger being generally kept for days without food; while, if it should flag in coming to the contest, it is frequently stimulated by fire and scalding water to renewed exertions certain to end in death, mostly by the horns of the practised buffalo, or, if victorious, by the bullets of the guards. Melville, in his narrative of in Java, says that in some districts much infested by tigers there is a regularly-organised tiger guard, whose business it is to keep watch at night, and without whom it is never considered safe to travel after dark.



A TIGER-HUNT AT JAVA — (FROM A SKETCH BY M. BONNET.)

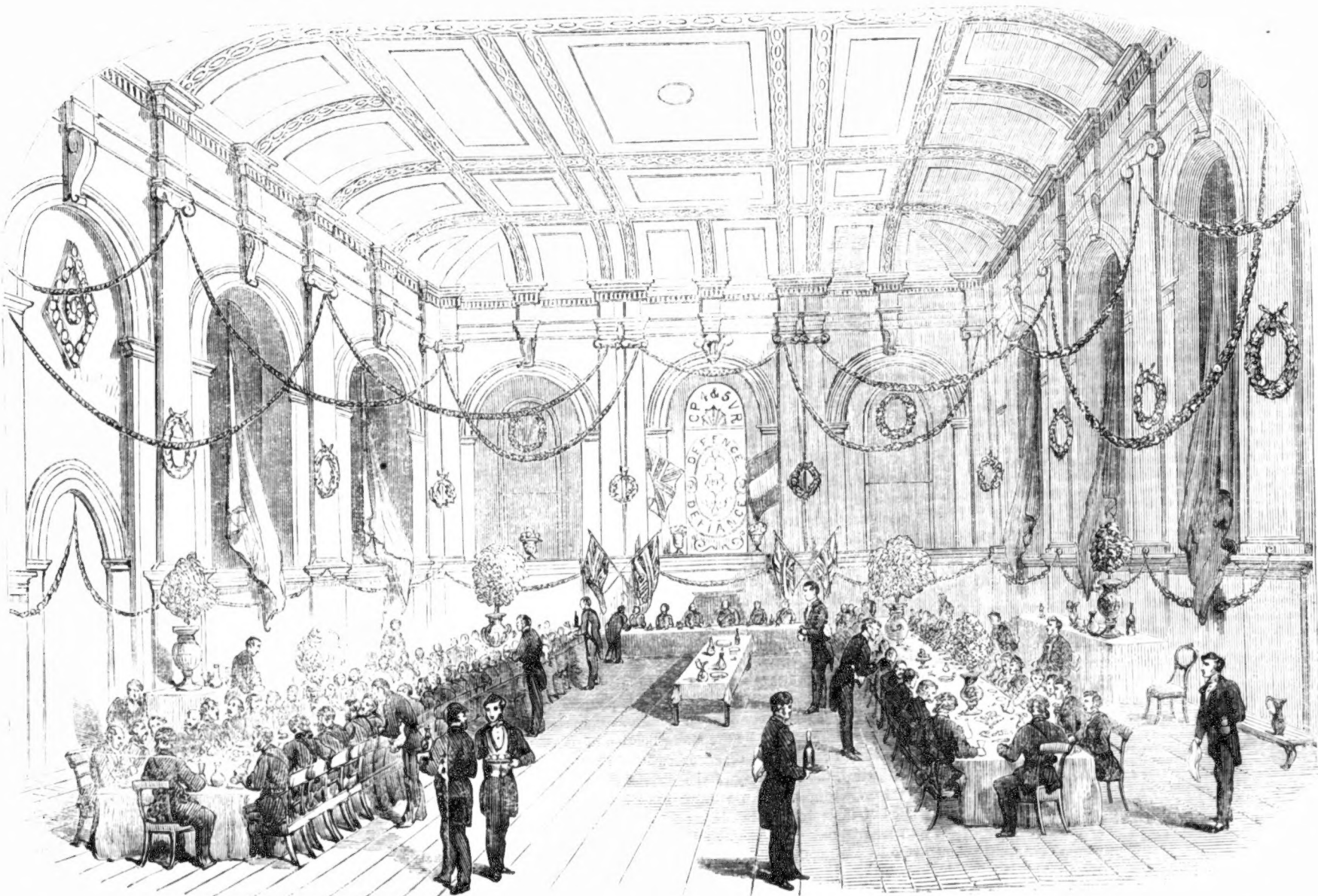


THE RHANNON, WITH GUNS RUN OUT AND MEN AT QUARTERS, STEAMING DOWN TO THE TUSCARORA.

THE TUSCARORA HEAVING HER ANCHOR, WITH GUNS RUN OUT READY FOR ACTION.

THE NASHVILLE STEAMING OUT FOR THE NEEDLES.

THE ESCAPE OF THE NASHVILLE THROUGH THE CALSHOT CHANNEL, SOUTHAMPTON WATER.—(FROM A SKETCH BY P. BRANNON.)



VOLUNTEER BANQUET IN THE NEW TOWNHALL AT FOLKESTONE.

THE ESCAPE OF THE NASHVILLE.

WE last week published some particulars regarding the departure of the Confederate steamer Nashville from Southampton, and of the movements of Captain Craven, of the Tuscarora, which enabled the Commander of the Nashville to claim the priority of departure and compelled his enemy to remain at anchor after his intended prey had left. Having made his arrangements for starting, directly he ascertained that the Tuscarora had returned to the Solent, Captain Pegram gave notice of his intention to leave, and claimed that the Federal vessel should be detained till he was twenty-four hours at sea. To this request no objection could be made, and so, at two p.m., everything on board the Nashville being ready for a start, her fires were lighted and steam got up without attracting much attention. Captain Patey, R.N., Admiralty agent at the port who was intrusted with the views of the Government, and had his instructions from the highest authorities how to act, proceeded on board her Majesty's ship Sprightly to communicate with her Majesty's ships Dauntless and Shannon, and finally with the Tuscarora. After an interval of half an hour the Nashville unmoored and quietly steamed out of the dock, making her course for Cowes Roads, where she arrived soon after the Sprightly. There were not more than a hundred persons present when the Nashville left the docks (so little being known of her movements), and even the United States Consul did not communicate her departure to Captain Craven till she was nearly down to Calshot Castle. Captain Patey having communicated with the two previously-named British frigates, proceeded on board the Tuscarora and informed Captain Craven that he must remain at his anchorage for twenty-four hours after the Confederate steamer Nashville, then passing him, had proceeded on her voyage. It was at 5.15 p.m. at this time, and the Nashville passed on to westward, with the ensign and pennant of the Confederate States flying, but without making any other marked demonstration. She went direct to sea, discharging her pilot outside the Needles in the usual way, and was soon beyond observation from the Isle of Wight.

The escape of the Nashville was at once the closing and the most exciting of the numerous episodes which have marked the visit of the rival American vessels to our shores. Even to the last moment, the Tuscarora endeavoured to violate the law of nations by attempting to evade obedience to the rule of which she had received official notification. When the Nashville was seen rounding Calshot Castle, her opponent began to leave her anchor and make every preparation for getting under way and entering on pursuit. The moment, however, that this was perceived by H.M.S. Shannon her anchors were tripped and she slowly and majestically steamed down to the contentious American, and, bringing to alongside, gave her a last warning, then passed to windward by her stern, and, returning on her starboard, took up a berth to the eastward. Meanwhile, her guns had been run out and the men were all at quarters ready for action. Thus she lay, fully prepared to prevent any infraction of the law, and compelling unwilling obedience until the expiration of the full period of twenty-four hours.

Our Sketch has been very carefully drawn, and represents the moment when the Shannon had left her first moorings, when the Tuscarora had hove close to her anchor, and the Nashville was rounding Calshot Point.

As the Tuscarora did not leave Southampton Water till forty-nine hours after the period of her enforced inactivity had elapsed, it is believed that she had abandoned all intention of chasing the Nashville; and thus Captain Craven had the mortification of seeing the prey he had so long and so pertinaciously watched escape beyond the possibility of recovery.

THE HYTHE AND FOLKESTONE VOLUNTEERS.

THE rifle volunteers of Hythe and Folkestone determined a few weeks since to have a grand field-day and an official inspection by Colonel Luard, the whole to be closed with a banquet in Folkestone. In one respect, however, they were doomed to disappointment. The Hythe corps marched into Folkestone, forming up in front of the Townhall at the appointed hour with military punctuality, and the two corps, headed by the Folkestone Artillery band, marched to the appointed ground; but Colonel Luard came not to inspect them, the pressure of urgent business having prevented him from fulfilling his engagement. The two corps were not, however, in martial array for nothing. Captain Leith took the command and put his volunteers through a series of exercises, which were very creditably and satisfactorily performed. As regards the banquet, however, there was no hitch; it went off with the utmost éclat.

At six o'clock the Council Room, the landing-place at the top of the stairs, and a portion also of the stairs, were crowded with volunteers and invited guests, preparatory to entry in state and dignity into the capacious Townhall, where the tables were being covered with a profusion of good cheer. At length the signal was given, and the chairman of the evening and principal donor of the feast, Captain Leith, attended by the gentlemen who were his special guests, entered the hall, into which he was followed by comrades in arms and others. And what a pleasing sight presented itself on entry into that hitherto comfortless capacity! Wreaths and roses, banners, mottoes, and devices covered the walls. For an entire week Troop Sergeant-Major Burbidge had been engaged in arranging the decorations, liberally supplied him by the ladies of Folkestone; and the result was a luxuriance of decoration that for once removed the blankness of the slab walls and of the gaunt window-openings, and coaxed the eye to range with delight on the varying beauty until it rested on that galaxy or gallery of beauty, that elicited glowing panegyrics from members of Parliament, as well as from those more especially called on in the programme of the evening to "toast the ladies" and to reply for them. On the tables were twelve large silver vases containing flowers, growing ferns, full-bearing orange-trees, &c., for which Mr. Dorland's conservatory, and also Mr. Meikle's nursery-grounds, had been laid under contribution. A most sumptuous repast was supplied by Mr. Medhurst, of the King's Arms, to which ample justice was done.

Captain Leith, of the Folkestone Rifles, occupied the chair, and was supported right and left by several members of Parliament, officers, clergymen, and other gentlemen of note. A variety of toasts were given and responded to, and a most agreeable and happy evening was spent.

The Folkestone band was stationed in the room, and played various selections during the evening, under the leadership of Mr. H. S. Roberts.

THE APPROACHES TO THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.—A correspondence has been published between Sir Richard Mayne and the Commissioners for the Exhibition relating to the condition of the approaches to that building. The head of the police suggests various improvements in some roads and the making of some new ones, in all of which the Commissioners heartily concur; but they add that they have neither the means nor the power to make the alterations themselves, and therefore they recommend the subject to the favourable consideration of the Government, the Parliament, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the several parishes.

DISASTERS AT SEA.—Some fearful disasters at sea are reported. The big Angelo, which arrived at Kingstown on Saturday night last, left Falmouth in company with two vessels, a ship and a barque, and in the English Channel fell in with two others, a brig and a brigantine. The five vessels proceeded in company for some time in a hard gale of wind and heavy sea, but four of them were totally wrecked, and all on board perished. They were seen from the deck of the Angelo to go down, one after the other, without a possibility of saving any of their crews, though their shrieks for help were heard amid the tempest. The captain of the Angelo states that it was the most harrowing scene he ever witnessed. The ships foundered and went down bodily off the Land's-end and Bristol Channel. The Angelo also witnessed an Austrian barque going ashore on the Cornish coast, when all on board perished.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862.

A NATIONAL POOR RATE.

THE exception proves the rule. It is scarcely to be considered as within the limits of probability that any one not being officially engaged in the administration of the parochial poor-law system could stand forward to defend it. On all hands it appears to be condemned. Philanthropists shudder at it, political economists regard it with contempt, theorists are bewildered by it; while the most practical of judicial authorities, the police magistrates, wage with it a continuous warfare. One class alone upholds it—the vestry interest—which delights in its twopenny parliament and in its power of ruling over the most helpless section of the community as a glorious alternative to not being able to rule at all. For the support of what may be termed the national game of vestry parliament, the State is compelled to pay the price of hearkening to the ceaseless wail of persecuted poverty and to the reproach of the worst-organised system of pauper relief in the world. Comparatively, there are extenuating circumstances in the lot of a Neapolitan lazzarone compared with an English pauper. The former is a legalised object of public charity: his climate renders a nightly shelter not always requisite and does not compel him to seek other than the most simple and the cheapest food.

It is not with individual cases that we wish to deal in the present article. Such have been and are constantly brought in all their hideousness before the public eye.

We have before us at the present moment the sad matter of the Hartley Colliery accident. Subscriptions to an amount exceeding the hopes of the most ardent sympathisers are still coming in as succour to the widows and fatherless. Every one gives, because he feels the gift just and necessary. So on every occasion when sudden calamity overtakes not the inhabitants in gross of a district, or the constituents of a class, but even individuals, under such circumstances as invest them with an interest beyond that of mere ordinary pauperism, it is to the public benevolence, and not to the public fund specially provided for the relief of poverty and distress, to which appeal must be made.

The relief of the poor is, as every one knows, parochial. Some amelioration of this phase has, it is true, been provided by the establishment of "unions" of two or more parishes, which thenceforth have a common interest. But in each of these unions relief is confined to its own narrow district. Hence the most absurd anomaly of our domestic legislation—that the poorest unions, having of course to support the greatest number of paupers, are rated the most heavily. In such districts the very rates actually increase themselves by driving the poor into the workhouses. On the other hand, the wealthy parishes, which have scarcely any poor to support, have comparatively no rates to pay. So much the better for the ratepayers, some will say. But the fact is that it is not a whit better for the ratepayers, inasmuch as higher rents are invariably levied in the wealthier parishes on the express and avowed ground of the lowness of the rates. On the other hand, in the poorer districts, the difficulty of collecting the rates, and the necessity of economising to the uttermost fraction, compel the guardians of the poor to reduce their scale of pauper accommodation and dietary to the very lowest pitch necessary to keep up the barest semblance of compliance with the law. So that, while the poor are starved, if not actually excluded by the limited means of the poor parishes, those who could and would pay for their support in the wealthy district are compelled to pay what ought to be poor rate into the pockets of the wealthiest and most unproductive class of capitalists—the landowners, whether as freeholders or mortgagees.

Besides this, a heavy mulct is levied upon the nation in the form of the continual interchange of paupers by mutual removal, by legal proceedings on questions as to the cumbrous law of settlement, and by the multiplication of poorhouses.

In such a case as that of an overwhelming calamity, as that of Hartley, the absurdity of the district system is shown in its strongest light. Two villages have been almost depopulated of their working hands. Such two might have formed a parochial union for pauper relief, in which case the entire rate for the relief of the distressed survivors would have fallen upon the widows and orphans themselves. But here public benevolence—nay, even sense of right—has interfered on behalf of the suffering community.

Of course a general equalisation would be the essential

element of a scheme of national poor rate. By such a system nearly all the horrors and anomalies of the present parochial plan would be mitigated, if not obviated. In such a case as that to which we have referred, as in that of operatives deprived of employ by inevitable political or social changes, there would be no need to appoint committees, to stir up the charitable, or to send round the begging-box: a grant from the national rate would at once meet the difficulty.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN HAS APPOINTED THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE Lord Warden of the Stannaries, an office in the Duchy of Cornwall held by the lamented Prince Consort. The office is now purely honorary.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL (Crown Princess of Prussia) is expected to arrive in this country to-day (Saturday), on a visit to her widowed mother.

THE PRINCE OF WALES arrived at Cologne on Friday week, by the afternoon train of the Rhenish Railway. His Royal Highness and suite dined in the reserved saloon of the station, and soon afterwards proceeded on his journey to Vienna, where he arrived on Wednesday.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS left Osborne on Monday for Buckingham Palace on his return to the Continent.

THE EARL OF AIRLI is to have the Green Ribbon of the Thistle vacant by the decease of the Earl of Eglinton.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between the Marquis of Hastings and Miss Alice Lisle Phillips, second daughter of Mr. Ambrose Lisle Phillips, of Garendon Park and Gracedieu Manor, in the county of Leicester; but the marriage will not take place until the Marquis has attained his majority, next year.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE will be transferred to the colonelcy of the Grenadier Guards, vacant by the death of the Prince Consort, and he will be succeeded in the colonelcy of the Scots Fusilier Guards by General Sir Alexander Woodford, G.C.B., Lieutenant-Governor of Chelsea Hospital.

LORD LEIGH, of Stoneleigh Abbey, is appealing to the public for the distressed operatives of Coventry. His Lordship says there are 25,000 people there out of employment, and a committee has been formed to assist some of them to emigrate.

THE HON. MRS. DYCE SOMERSET has contributed the sum of £1500 towards the erection of a new Townhall and covered market at Stone, Staffordshire.

REAR-ADMIRAL POPOFF has been appointed to the command of the Russian squadron which is about to cruise on the coasts of China and Japan.

THE REV. DR. GOODFORD, Head Master of Eton, has been elected Provost on the nomination of her Majesty.

IT IS SAID THAT THE PRINCE OF CAPUA, uncle of the ex-King of Naples, is about to accept the office of senator of the Kingdom of Italy.

THE CARNIVAL SEASON is proceeding gaily in the Eternal City. The Roman palaces are thrown open by their owners to the privileged classes, foreign and indigenous; and theatres of all grades, from the Apollo to the Piazza Navona, are crowded by their respective habitués. British and American visitors are flocking to each other's dinner-parties, "tea-fights," or State balls, much as if they were at home.

A RICH GOLDFIELD has been discovered in the Carnatic, and the announcement of a company to work it has caused great excitement in Bombay.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR of the parish of St. Pancras have determined to abolish the system of separating married couples above sixty years of age.

A CAPTAIN YOUNG, of General Banks's division of the Federal Army, recently assaulted Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, alias Captain Stewart, Assistant Adjutant-General, whereupon his Lordship punched his assailant's head with great vigour.

TWO MEN of the second battalion of the 16th Regiment have been tried and found guilty at Halifax of threats to shoot their superiors, and one of the 63rd was also to be tried at the same station.

IT IS SAID THAT in future English papers will be allowed to circulate freely in France, without, as before, being revised by the authorities.

MISS WALLACE, lady's maid to the Duchesse de Montrose, has recovered £700 damages from the London and North-Western Railway Company for injuries sustained by a collision on the defendants' line, near Atherton, in November, 1860.

THE ARMY AND NAVY together of the United States are now drawing on the nation at the rate of over £160,000,000 per annum (£162,000,000). France paid or got credits for £13,000,000 in 1860 to maintain a larger army.

REMOVE states that the classic grounds of Newstead will be henceforth closed against the public, so that there will be an end to the pilgrimages to the home of Childe Harold.

THE POPE is causing a sepulchre to be built in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, similar to those which exist in the churches of St. Peter and St. John de Latran, with the intention, it is said, of being interred there.

ACCORDING TO THE VIENNA PAPERS, a secret printing-press, with several hundred copies of revolutionary proclamations, has been discovered in Venice, and many arrests have been made.

AT A PUBLIC MEETING held at Totnes last week it was resolved to perpetuate the memory of the late W. J. Wills, a native of that place, who was a member of the recent Victorian exploration party.

ABOUT THIRTY OR FORTY MEN AND WOMEN were assembled at a wake in a house in Strong's-court, Gregg's-lane, Dublin, when the floor gave way, and corpse and wakers were precipitated into a cellar below. No serious personal injury was sustained.

A CORRESPONDENT states that Lord Brougham is much respected by the inhabitants of Cannes; "but the lower orders cannot make out why so great a millionaire should persist in wearing a hat for which no one in his senses would give a couple of centimes."

WILLIAM HOBBS, a middle-aged gentleman, attempted to commit suicide last week, in consequence, as was stated, of being very much excited by reading the Windham case, and from fear that like proceedings would be instituted against himself. Hobbs must be a proper subject for Mr. Warren to adjudicate upon.

MR. JOSEPH SHAW, solicitor, of Derby, and High Bailiff of the Derby County Court, has been charged, before the borough magistrates, with forgery, and remanded.

THE MADRID JOURNALS publish several articles relative to the establishment of a Monarchical government in Mexico, and seem to think that a Spanish Prince would enact the Sovereign there just as well as an Austrian or any other foreigner.

THE REV. G. BROOKS, Vicar of Clavering, has turned a girl out of the day-school under his direction because her parents declined to forego the practice of taking her with them on Sundays to the Independent chapel.

AS A COUPLE WERE BEING MARRIED in the parish church of Capel, Sussex, last week, the would-be bridegroom burst out laughing in the middle of the service, whereupon the clergyman closed his book, stayed the proceedings, and, having admonished them in his usual courteous manner, left the sacred edifice and the disconcerted couple.

SOME FISHING-BOATS BELONGING TO FLEETWOOD last week picked up thirty-nine puncheons of whisky floating about twenty-three miles west of Blackpool, which, it is supposed, are part of the cargo of a wrecked vessel only now breaking up. The whisky has been bonded; but the fishermen will get their salvage on it, whether it is claimed or not.

PRINCE NAPOLEON has asked the Prefect of the Seine to obtain from the Municipal Council a vote of 20,000fr. for the purpose of sending working men to see the London Universal Exhibition, and has promised the aid of a like sum from the funds of the committee of which he is president.

SIR GEORGE LEWIS has notified to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford that candidates for commissions entering Sandhurst as military cadets, who have passed the first and second Oxford examinations (responsions and moderations), need not be re-examined in the same subjects if they produce certificates of adequate proficiency from the Oxford examiners.

THE SPORTING SEASON has been very successful this year in France. During the last three months only there have been killed on the territory of the French empire 500,800 partridges, 396,000 quails and landrails, 400,000 rabbits, 206,000 hares, 18,000 pheasants, 14,730 woodcocks, 1600 deer, 80,000 wild ducks, and 28,000 snipes, making together 1,645,130 head.

IT IS SAID THAT neither Mr. Locke King nor Mr. Baines will bring forward his annual Reform motion this Session.

THE FRENCH COMMISSION APPOINTED, under the presidency of Count Walewski, to consider the literary and artistic copyright question, has, after three sittings, appointed a sub-committee to prepare a "project of law," the basis of which is to be the principle of perpetuity.

A STUDENT AT HIDEINBERG, named Wolf, the only son of the principal banker of Bremen, has just been killed in a duel with another student, after some trifling dispute. The victim survived but a few hours the arrival of his afflicted parents.

MARSHAL SERRANO.

THE European intervention in Mexico will probably give ample opportunity for the General, whose Portrait we engrave, to display his sagacity, as it has already given means for him to exhibit his promptitude.

The Marshal seems to be one of those whom fortune is said to favour, and even the events which made it politically desirable to remove him from the Court of Spain can scarcely be unfavourable to him when he was presented with so important an appointment as that of the governorship of Cuba, in addition to his rank of Spanish Grandee and Lieutenant-General previously conferred on him for the part he took in repressing the troubles at Madrid in 1856. Thus, at fifty years old, Francisco Serrano, of Dominguez, finds himself, with his honours thick upon him, in a position which he has already justified by the rapidity of his movements in the late affairs at Vera Cruz, and in possession, it is said, of an enormous fortune.

AN ANNAMITE INTERIOR.

Our readers will remember some account in our pages of the French territory of Saigon, in Cochinchina, where, after the termination of the Chinese War, a large detachment of French troops were compelled to march against the Annamites, who had strongly intrenched themselves and endeavoured to take possession of the whole country.

We this week engrave the interior of an Annamite house, from a sketch by M. Testevuide. Like the Japanese, the Annamites build their houses almost open to the air, so that the Government system of espionage may be very easily carried on. Indeed, in the case of the Japanese, the ordinary occupations are frequently conducted in front of the dwellings, and so accustomed are the people to mutual observation that even the toilet is conducted outside the opening which answers to the street door, and the astonished European who passes them only receives a pleasant nod from entire families engaged in the daily ablutions which are highly necessary in such a climate.

SEBASTOPOL AS IT IS.

We came to the scene of the Balaklava charge, and then, through the village of Kamora, down upon Balaklava. Was that the harbour in which all the ships were? That pond? We lunched under a rock overlooking the harbour; one or two fishing-boats were crossing its still water. We walked down into that quiet village, and on to the now deserted quay and pier. All the scenes of the war winter came before one—the noise, the confusion, the accumulations in that small place, where now there was not a sign of intercourse with the outer world. The hospital building still remains, and on the steep slope above are the two graves of the Sisters of Mercy who died in that hospital while nursing the soldiers. In grateful memory for their services the regiment have put up two stone tombs, and inclosed them within rails. Many are the solitary tombstones seen in and about Balaklava. It was a steep scramble up to the Sisters' Graves, and it was a still steeper one up to the Genoese Fort. But, unless a traveller ascends three-quarters of the way to the castle, he will not see the beautiful white marble cross erected, we were told, by Florence Nightingale to commemorate the

occupation of the British Army in the Crimea. We could only see it at a distance: as, though we had ascended a considerable height, to have reached it would have involved another hour's climbing. We returned in the evening, following the line of the Camp Railroad (those rails are now in use between Tchernavoda and Kustendjie), and then galloping across the plain at a frightful pace. There was much to be seen in and about the town—more than

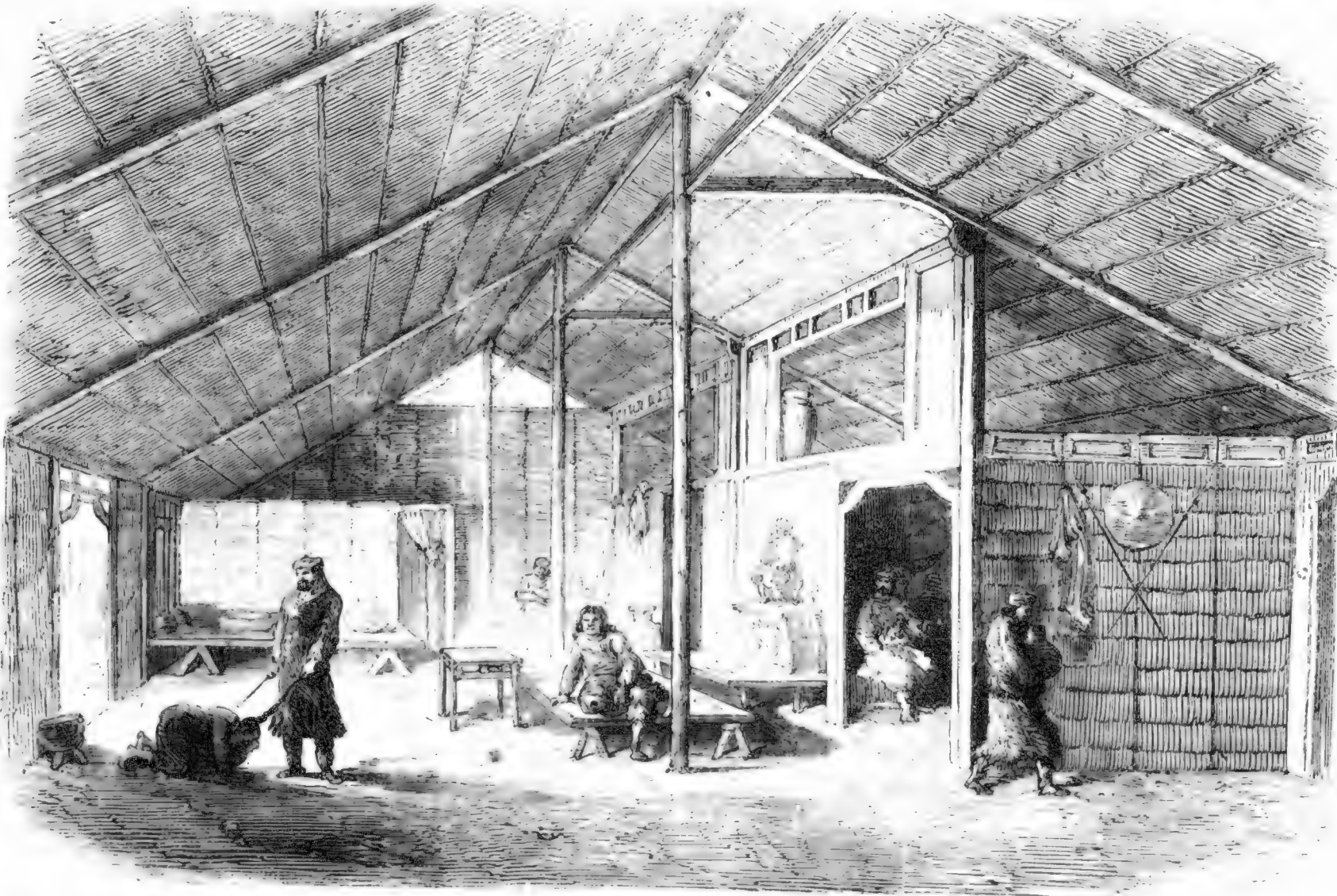
we had leisure for; we could only spare time for rambles among the ruined streets at odd moments. What our guns spared the Russians themselves destroyed, either by fire or gunpowder, and yet the ruins now have no appearance of fire; it is more as if an earthquake had shaken down the town. Most of the restored houses, of those that escaped, are in the south-east quarter of the town. There were two shops we went to which seemed to supply everything for every-day life. All luxuries come from Odessa. The chief buildings were in the most exposed part, and are all destroyed. Prince Menschikoff's fine palace, with its terraces and staircases; the public library, which must have been a very handsome building, crowning the crest of the hill on which the town is built; the church, of which only the colonnade remains; the governor's house; the theatre; these are only a few of the many handsome stone houses entirely in ruins. One church in the main street has been rebuilt. Down by the water's edge, at the head of the south harbour, lie piles of rusty cannon-balls, and bullets of all sizes, broken shells, and old iron in every shape. There was another large pile of the bones of horses and cattle. Of the famous dockyards not a vestige remains; nor of Fort Nicholas or Fort Paul. We did not cross to Fort Constantine, but it seemed untouched. It was a matter of daily surprise to us that we were so civilly treated as we walked about Sebastopol. The few inhabitants there were appeared not to notice us. We were never interfered with while sketching, as is so often the case in foreign countries; and the only living beings who seemed to resent our presence were the innumerable dogs who prowled about the deserted town. One object still remained to be accomplished, and that was the Malakoff, and on this, our last day, we drove up to it. Its labyrinth of earthworks is very striking when contrasted with the single earth-ridge of the Redan; and the commanding position of the elevation told its own story why such labour had been bestowed upon its defences. Two of the tiers of loopholes remain in the ruined tower. In the cellar, or the magazine below, a lame horse was sheltering itself from the glare of the midday sun. For the last time we looked down upon the ruined town, and round upon all the scenes connected with it.—*Macmillan's Magazine.*

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH REVIVED.

THERE is reason to believe that attempts will shortly be made to connect England and America once more by the electric telegraph, and this time with greatly-increased prospects of success. Recent occurrences have impressed the Governments of England and the United States with the enormous importance of such a means of communication; and it is not too much to say that, had an electric telegraph existed between the two continents, the affair of the Trent would not have been attended with those serious apprehensions which we have witnessed: would have saved the vast expenditure which our Government incurred: would have prevented the depreciation of property in both countries to the amount of millions, and that interference with commerce and manufactures which resulted from the ill-judged and unauthorised conduct of Captain Wilks. The President and Government of the United States are so fully



MARSHAL SERRANO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CUBA.



INTERIOR OF AN ANNAMITE HOUSE AT SAIGON. (FROM A SKETCH BY A. TESTEVIDE.)

sensible of the importance and value of telegraphic communication, and of the possibility of providing it, that they have decided upon giving every support in their power to any well-considered project of that kind. The Government of the United States have in the most liberal manner offered to subscribe one-half the sum which would be required for making the cable and give the use of vessels of their Navy in assisting to lay it, provided the British Government will grant the remaining portion of the sum. As further evidence of the friendly spirit which has actuated this offer, the Government of the United States are perfectly content that the telegraph should have its terminus on British territory, as that will afford the nearest point of communication with England or Ireland. Any arrangements that would be entered into between the two Governments would, of course, provide for the efficient working and use of the line, and would guarantee its protection by both countries in the event of hostilities. The cost of the cable, calculated with the greatest amount of care and with every improvement, would not be greater than that which was expended on the line from Malta to Alexandria, and which was wholly defrayed by the Government. Our interests with the American continent are not less important than those with India: and, even if greater importance were to be attached to our Eastern possessions, it would only render still more necessary a line across the Atlantic, seeing that, with the telegraphs which already exist on the American continent, and which now extend to the Pacific coast, it would afford a means of rapid and valuable communication from the West with China and our Indian empire.—*Observer*.

THE
RIGHT HON. MILNER GIBSON, M.P.

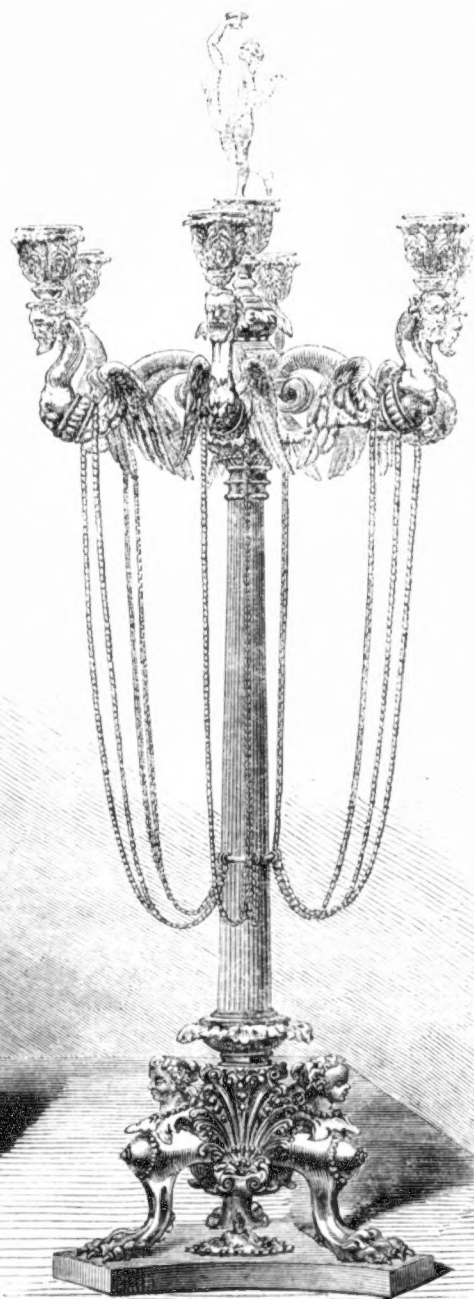
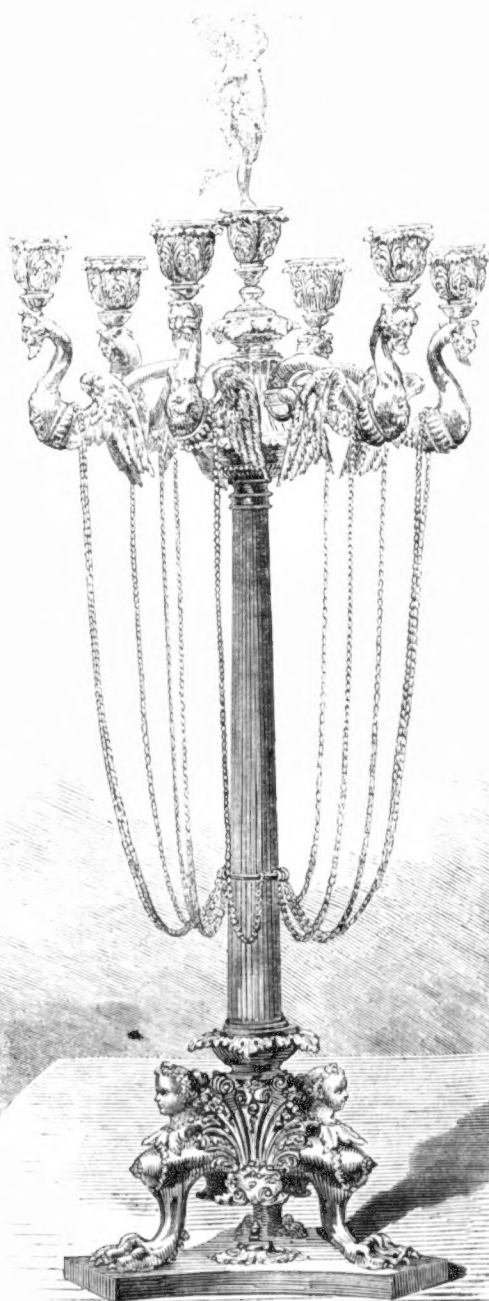
THOMAS MILNER GIBSON, M.P. and President of the Board of Trade, of whom we this week present our readers with a Portrait, was born in 1807, at Trinidad, and is the only son of Major Thomas Milner Gibson, of the 87th Regiment. He studied at Cambridge, where he was a Wrangler; and in 1837 entered Parliament as a Conservative for the borough of Ipswich. In 1839, however, he changed his opinions, resigned his seat, and again appealed to his constituents, but was defeated. He subsequently stood for Cambridge, but, being rejected, was out of Parliament till 1841, when he successfully contested Manchester on Free-trade principles against Sir George Murray. During the time he was out of Parliament, Mr. Gibson threw himself heart and soul into the great contest for the abolition of the corn laws, and became one of the most distinguished orators and leaders of the League. In 1846, at the close of the anti-corn



THE RIGHT HON. T. MILNER GIBSON, M.P.

law agitation, when Lord John Russell took office as Premier, and declared that his general policy was to carry out to their natural consequences the principles of free trade embodied in Sir Robert Peel's recent legislation, and which had become generally popular in the country, the Minister sought to strengthen his Government by incorporating in it some of the leading members of the League; and Mr. Gibson's great ability, business habits, and persevering character marked him out for selection. He accordingly became Vice-President of the Board of Trade and a Privy Councillor. This office he continued to hold till 1848, when he resigned, conceiving that his connection with the Government fettered him in his relations with his constituents in the great centre of the manufacturing interest. He now took his place in the section of independent members, at the head of whom were Messrs. Cobden and Bright. He was strongly opposed to the war with Russia, and so heartily disapproved of that with China that he became somewhat unpopular, and at the general election of 1857 was rejected by Manchester at the same time as Mr. Bright, who shared his then unpalatable opinions. Mr. Gibson, however, was shortly afterwards returned for Ashton-under-Lyne, and framed the famous amendment on the Conspiracy Bill which led to the downfall of Lord Palmerston's Government and the advent of the last Derby-Disraeli Cabinet to office. In 1859, when Lord Derby was defeated on the Reform question and Lord Palmerston again returned to power, Mr. Gibson was appointed to the office of President of the Board of Trade, which he still continues to hold. The right hon. gentleman's latest public appearance was at Ashton-under-Lyne, on Monday evening, some account of which will be found in another portion of our Paper.

Mr. Gibson has for several years been a strenuous advocate of the abolition of the taxes on knowledge, and during last Session rendered good service to the public by the assistance he afforded in carrying the repeal of the paper duty. His services in connection with this matter were last week acknowledged by a public breakfast and presentation of plate, as noticed in our Number of this day week. The testimonial, as the reader will perceive by the annexed Engraving, consists of a chaste and elegant centrepiece, together with a flower-basket, supported by caryatid figures of exquisite grace and genuine classical feeling, manufactured by Messrs. Garrard, from a design by John Flaxman. The pair of candelabra by which the centrepiece is supported are noble works of art. They are from designs by the late Sir Charles Barry, and have been beautifully manufactured by Mr. Barry, of Piccadilly. The various objects are of silver-gilt, and their cost was, we understand, about £600. This handsome acknowledgment of the valuable aid rendered by the Presi-



TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO THE RIGHT HON. T. MILNER GIBSON, M.P.

dent of the Board of Trade in an arduous and protracted struggle bears the following inscription:—"Presented to the Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson, M.P., by the members and friends of the Association for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, as a commemorative testimonial of his important services during twelve years as their President. Advertisement Duty repealed Aug. 4, 1853; Compulsory Stamp on Newspapers repealed June 29, 1855; Paper Duty repealed Oct. 1, 1861."

THE LILY OF KILLARNEY.

AGE cannot wither "The Colleen Bawn," nor can the custom of parodying every successful production stale the infinite variety of this remarkable drama. Poor Gerald Griffin, who is said to have had faith in his capital Irish novel, could never have imagined the endless changes and modifications through which the story was destined to pass. In the space of a few revolving moons we have seen it played as a melodrama and as a burlesque, heard it sung as a comic scene, and finally witnessed its production as a grand opera, composed by one of the most deservedly famous musicians of the day. Will it run the entire gauntlet of transformations, and be danced through as a ballet? This is by no means improbable; but meanwhile we have to do with the present stage of "The Colleen Bawn's" career, which is Mr. Benedict's opera, "The Lily of Killarney," produced on Monday evening last at Covent-garden Theatre.

The withdrawal of Mr. Balfe's excellent opera "The Puritan's Daughter," in the height of its popularity, could only have been justified by a pressured belief in the attractions of its substitute. That this belief was pressured one may easily suppose; for, though it is not always possible to tell from rehearsals "how the thing will go" with an audience, there must be occasions when the signs of success are unmistakable; and here, surely, was an occasion of that kind. Mr. Benedict's music is so beautiful and so dramatic that there is no point of the acting play which it fails to heighten in effect. The overture, played to perfection, was encoored with such genuine and spontaneous heartiness by the entire house that there was no option but to repeat it. Eight vocal pieces received the same honour, and six of these were sung twice, the encores in the two other cases being severally declined by Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Santley. The libretto has been remodelled by Mr. Bonicault from his Adelphi drama, the songs being added by Mr. John Oxenford. These, like the majority of the ballads in "Robin Hood," are sound, honest productions of their kind; and it is not too much to say that, admirable as is the music of Mr. Benedict, the verbal rhythm to which is united aids materially that happy result which we have to chronicle. The cast of characters was a strong one from a histrionic as well as a musical point of view, for all the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the opera are actors and singers too. An exception may perhaps occur in the case of Mr. Henry Haigh, whose sweet tenor voice and musician-like style are worthy a better stage presence than accompanies them. This gentleman, as the representative of Hardress Cregan, can only be credited with having walked through the part inoffensively, while, as the second tenor of the opera, he may fairly be said to have divided the laurels with the first. Miss Louisa Pyne was, of course, the Eily O'Connor of the piece; and, though her voice had not entirely recovered its strength, she sang as exquisitely as could have been desired. Her sister, Miss Susan Pyne, sustained the part of Mrs. Cregan; and the successful debutante, Miss M'Lean, gave a tuneful version of the warm-hearted Anne Chute. Mr. Harrison, as Myles, acted with the greatest spirit, and threw a certain humour into the melodious ballads which he had to sing. The part of Danny Mann was filled by Mr. Santley, and the minor characters were ably sustained by Mr. Dussek, Mr. Lyall, and Mr. Wallworth. The chorus and orchestra, under Mr. Alfred Mellon's direction, were, as usual, perfect.

THE GREAT PYTHONS AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—An advertisement from the Zoological Society announces that at the society's gardens the "large python may now be seen incubating her eggs." The egg-laying occurred four weeks ago. The plethoric condition of the serpent occasioned uneasiness. Some supposed that she had bolted a stray blanket. It was considered whether something might be done to relieve the great reptile, when she extruded, as well as the keeper can estimate, about one hundred eggs. These, inclosed in a white, leatherlike substance, are about the size of those of a goose, the majority of a dirty-white appearance, connected by a membrane. Among them are two small red eggs, and many are indented, probably by the great pressure of the serpent's body. It is remarkable that this prolific extrusion of eggs, which might be supposed to have exhausted the animal, and consequently excited hunger, has had apparently an opposite effect. At all events, the reptile has not broken fast for twenty-three weeks. Once, and once only, has the keeper seen her absent from her interesting incubatory operation; and then, before he could get round to the back of the cage to have a better view of the eggs, she was on them again. In fact, she much resembles an old hen with a brood, puffed up by maternal pride and conceit, and is in a highly excitable condition. It will be interesting to watch the result. Immediately opposite the pythons's cage is a lively member of the viper family which was hatched in the gardens in 1860 from an egg; and we understand that a box was born in Paris from an egg hatched by the female. Thus the Zoological Society may reasonably look forward to an increase of its interesting collection of reptiles; and, though the fellows are probably not particularly desirous to have an accession of one hundred pythons to their stock, yet a few lively baby pythons would undoubtedly be an important addition to the attractions of their unrivalled gardens during the ensuing season, when our metropolis will be crowded by sight-seeing visitors.

A FEMALE VETERAN.—The oldest cantinère of the French army has just died at Issoudun, aged ninety-four years. Ti-dese Jourdan, born at Beaucou in 1768, was married in 1783 to Jean Patru, who afterwards became a Sergeant of the 69th Brigade. She was with her husband through Bonaparte's Italian campaigns of 1796-7. After that she went to Egypt, and was present at the landing of the army before Alexandria; she was at the battle of the Pyramids and at Kleber's victory near the ruins of Heliopolis. After her return from the East she accompanied the army to Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, during the campaigns on the Elbe, the Vistula, and the Niemen. She then went to Spain, whence she returned to witness the battles of Essling and Wagram. In 1812 she followed the grand army to Russia, and was at the battle before Moscow, where her husband fell while storming a redoubt. She returned to France with a remnant of that host, taken part in the campaign of 1813; was at Bautzen, Leipzig, and Waterloo. When the army was reorganised she was attached to the 4th Regiment of the Line, and went with it to Spain in 1823, under the Duc d'Angoulême. From 1830 to 1834 she was in Africa. In 1839 she went there again with the depot of the 4th, remaining till 1860. She went to Issoudun with the same corps. She was allowed a pension by the officers, and was idolised by the soldiers. Her rations were served out to her as if she was on the strength of the regiment. She retained her faculties to the last, and died without pain.

ITALIAN PATRIOTISM.—The Council-General of the city of Leghorn, at its last sitting, unanimously adopted a motion made by Dr. Sforzi, one of its members, to the effect that, as the independence of a nation cannot be established without blood and treasure, the city of Leghorn is ready to bear any new weight of taxation that may be laid upon it by the Government and Parliament for the purpose of consolidating and completing the independence of Italy.

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.—The Great Exhibition is likely to attract all the lesser luminaries of the kingdom to the metropolis this year. Among other institutions it has been determined by the directors of the Social Science Association to hold their annual conference this year in London, in the hope that the jurists, statistes, and philanthropists of the Continent will take advantage of the opportunity and attend their discussions. A preliminary meeting of the friends of the association was held, for this purpose, on Tuesday, in the Mansion House, when resolutions approving of the object and appointing a committee for the reception of strangers, were agreed to. The principal speakers were Sir John Lubbock, the Recorder, and Sir Francis Goldsmid. It is understood that Burlington House has been promised for the meetings of the different sections.

THE MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF THE LATE COLONEL SIR GEORGE COOPER, BART., C.B., K.H., who for twenty-one years was the Principal Equerry and Comptroller of the Household to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, has just been erected over the vault in the cemetery at Kensal-green. The monument, which is in the Gothic style and of richly carved marble, has been designed by Mr. Edward James Poynter, the sculptor.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT HACKNEY.

ON Wednesday morning, shortly after ten o'clock, a very sad accident happened in the Amherst-road, Hackney, within fifty yards of the railway station. On the south side of the road just mentioned a range of superior houses, three stories in height and having shop fronts, the rear abutting on the North London Railway, is in course of construction by Messrs. Amos, builders, of the Pembury-road. The roofs had been covered in, and on Wednesday morning the carpenters were busily engaged in laying the floors, and plasterers and labourers were occupied on the front scaffolding in cementing the coping and upper cornices, when a sharp, loud, rattling noise was heard, and the next instant the front walls and the roofs and the whole of the floors of the second and third houses from the Hackney end of the road fell with a fearful crash, dragging with them a portion of the end or corner building. The shock alarmed the whole neighbourhood, and for a time the most painful excitement prevailed. The unfortunate men at work fitting up the interior of the houses fell with the floors, and were buried beneath the mass of ruins. Their cries were heartrending. The plasterers and labourers who were on the front scaffold fared but little better. The front wall in falling carried away the scaffolding, and the men who were on it fell to the ground on the shattered brickwork with fearful violence. The workpeople from the adjacent premises and a body of the N division of police soon arrived at the scene, and prompt measures were taken to rescue the sufferers. After great exertion twelve persons were got out, two being dead. One of the killed was a lad about sixteen, named George Rathbone, who was fearfully crushed. The other man killed was Jacob Ketteridge, who was found impaled by a joist through the body, and it was necessary to saw the joist in two before the body could be recovered. Death in his case must have been instantaneous. Another poor fellow, named John Fuller, a bricklayer, aged about sixty, was so much injured that he died shortly after he was got out of the ruins. Two other persons died after being admitted to the German Hospital, making five in all. Dr. Clark, of Hackney, was on the spot immediately after the occurrence, and rendered every possible assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded men. The latter were removed without delay to the German Hospital at Dalston. Most of the injuries were of a serious character, but it was at first hoped that only one case might prove fatal—that of a poor boy, about nineteen, named William Sherman, son of the road surveyor of the district. He was quite insensible when taken to the hospital, and from the nature of his injuries no hopes are entertained of his recovery. There were many narrow escapes. One young man who was on the roof at the time fell to the bottom without injury; and a carpenter, who was in the act of descending a ladder, lost his footing from the concussion, and slipped down without hurt. A similar accident occurred about twelve months ago, close upon this spot, a large tavern, when nearly completed, having fallen in a similar manner. There is no doubt that at the inquest a most searching inquiry as to the cause of this lamentable occurrence will take place. It may not, however, be out of place to mention that the general opinion was that the stone abutment on which the breastsummer of No. 2 rested, either from the effect of frost or from being insufficient to sustain so great a weight as the entire frontage, had given way, and had taken with it the frontage of No. 1. As there was a probability of the portion of the corner house which was left standing coming down, the police took the precaution of closing the road for traffic. It being evident that the motion of the trains, so close were the houses to the line, had an effect on the portion of No. 1 that was still standing, a telegram was sent giving notice of the danger, and the trains afterwards went as gently as possible past the spot. The ruins, after being secured, are to remain undisturbed so as to undergo the closest examination by a surveyor to be appointed by the coroner.

The following is a list of the injured persons now lying at the German Hospital, drawn up by Mr. Victor de Méric, surgeon to the hospital:—William Abel, forty-two, No. 4, Brook-terrace, Wick-road, Homerton, fracture of the neck of the left humerus, with dislocation of the head of the bone into the axilla; Walter Bushell, fifteen, No. 8, Jerusalem-passage, Church-street, Hackney, contusion of the right knee; George William Brooking, twenty-five, No. 3, Needham-terrace, Hackney, severe contusion of the left ankle; William Sherman, already mentioned, aged nineteen, No. 8, Down-terrace, Clarence-road, Hackney, fracture of the anterior portions of the third and fourth ribs on the right side, extensive emphysema, considerable abrasion over the scapula of the same side; George Walden, sixteen, No. 6, Farey-street, Newington common, extensive scalp wound on the right side, severe concussion, unconsciousness, dislocation of the right clavicle; Charles Mann, thirty-two, No. 2, Holt's place, Hoxton, lacerated wound of right forehead and right eye, severe scalp wound on the left side, contusions of both hands, and internal injury on left side of the chest; Thomas Bailey, twenty, No. 1, Church-row, Dalston, extensive scalp wound over the vertex; John Clark, thirty-one, No. 31, Orchard-street, Ball's-pond, oblique fracture of radius and ulna on the right side, with great displacement and considerable effusion.

All the patients are much stunned, and some are in a very weak state.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN THE WATERLOO-ROAD.

A MOST alarming accident happened between one and two o'clock on Monday afternoon in the Waterloo-road, Lambeth, between the bridge and the South-Western Railway Terminus. At the extremity of the incline leading from Waterloo-bridge, in the direction of the railway, stands a row of houses three floors high, built upon a similar number of structures raised in the Commercial-road, a narrow thoroughfare leading along the south side of the Thames, and in close proximity with the Feathers Tavern.

Owing to some disagreement between the superior landlord and a sub-tenant, proceedings had been taken to get rid of the majority of the occupants, and brokers' men had been placed in some of the houses for the purpose of getting possession of the property contained in the respective habitations. Another account says that the occupants are tenants of a kind of middleman, named Jeffs, a builder in the Cornhill-road; one Jones, living in the vicinity, being the superior landlord. They have, it is said, in every instance paid their rents due up to last quarter day to Jeffs, and hold his receipts; but, in spite of that, on Friday or Saturday last a distress for rent, alleged to be due from him, was put into every house at the instance of Jones, to the great inconvenience and annoyance of the inmates.

The houses follow the incline of the roadway leading up from Stamford-street to the bridge, and in front of them there is a space, about 6ft. wide, and in places some 30ft. or 40ft. deep, covered over with flagstones mostly, with here and there an iron grating to ventilate and light the abyss below. It appears that on Monday morning "the man in possession" of one of the houses left the place to go to a neighbouring public-house for some refreshment. A young man, occupying apartments in the upper part of the house, taking advantage of the absence of the unwelcome guest, locked the door upon him, and on the man's return amused himself by laughing and jeering at him from one of the windows. The neighbours around and people passing treated this as a practical joke, and the fun continued all the forenoon. At length the discomfited bailiff, procuring advice and assistance, attempted to break in the door, using for that purpose and with much violence a piece of short, stout plank. With this he stove in two of the panels and effected an entrance. The residents in the house, rather than allow their furniture to be retaken for rent which they conceived they did not owe, began pitching chairs and tables out of the windows into the street. Of course a scene like this in a great public thoroughfare attracted the notice of every one passing, and a crowd collected in front of the

house. Most of them unhappily—men, women, and children—stood upon an iron grating, about six or eight feet square, near the adjoining shop. In an instant this grating gave way, and some twenty-five or thirty of the unfortunate people fell pell-mell into the area beneath, a depth of about 35 or 40ft., shrieking terribly. Several others were caught by bystanders as they were falling with the rest, and so rescued. The greatest consternation prevailed above and below. The people in the street rushed down to the Commercial-road, which is on a level with the bottom of the area, to render what assistance they could in the emergency. A yawning gulf appeared in the street above. By degrees the people who had fallen were got out through an adjoining house on the lower level. They were in many cases shockingly injured. Some had both their legs broken—others their skulls fractured—all were more or less wounded. It was distressing, in particular, to see the bruises and broken bones which boys of twelve and fourteen had received, and the grief to which their parents gave way. The sufferers were conveyed as speedily as possible in cabs to the nearest hospitals; the greater part of them being taken to that of St. Thomas's, and the rest to Guy's and Charing-cross, except a few who lived near and were removed to their own homes. One at least of the sufferers has died, and grave fears are entertained for the lives of some others.

There are peculiarly painful circumstances connected with the case of one of the sufferers, named George Clement Ridley, a fine boy of fourteen. Not long ago his father and several of his little brothers and sisters died of a fever, and since then his poor mother has been struggling to maintain the rest of the family and herself. She was well-nigh distracted as she accompanied her unfortunate boy to the hospital.

It appears that after the iron grating had given way it hung by the edge for a moment or two and then fell with a fearful crash, carrying some of the flagstones with it, upon the people who had just been precipitated into the area below, and also upon two children who were playing there.

Upon competent persons making a careful inspection of the pavement which fell and caused such lamentable injuries, it seems that the flagstones and gratings covering the areas of the various houses in this great thoroughfare, daily and nightly passed over by thousands, was placed upon mere wooden bearings, which from wet and age had become decayed, and unable any longer to bear the weight of the passing public, to say nothing of the dead weight of probably fifty individuals—for there must have been that number when the catastrophe took place. We visited the spot a short time after the accident occurred, and, from the observations we were able to make, the construction of the coverings to the area appeared to be of a very faulty character indeed. The hold which the grating and flagstones had both upon the roadway and the houses seemed very slight; and no sufficient supports, as far as we could see, had been provided for the weight that even in ordinary circumstances would fall upon the footway, much less for such an extra pressure as the collection of a crowd would occasion. We trust that a searching investigation will be made into the causes of this calamity, and that measures will be taken to compel builders and proprietors to make their premises more substantial and secure. The degree of recklessness in constructing London houses in this respect is enormous; and it is high time competent authority stepped in to guard the public from the consequences of the parsimony or carelessness of speculative builders and their clients.

OBITUARY.

SIR T. J. PLATT.—The Hon. Sir Thomas Joshua Platt, formerly one of the Barons of the Exchequer, died on Monday at his residence, Portland-place. The deceased was a son of the late Mr. Thomas Platt, and was educated at Harrow School, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1810 and M.A. in 1814. He entered as a student of the Inner Temple, and was called to the Bar by that society in 1816; he afterwards practised on the Home Circuit, and became a King's Counsel in 1841. He was raised to the Bench as a Baron of the Court of Exchequer in 1845, but retired in 1856. He was in his seventy-third year.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR THOMAS H. FRANKS, K.C.B.—The above gallant officer, whose death occurred on the 5th inst., was second son of the late William Franks, Esq., of Carrig, Cork. He entered the Army as Ensign in July, 1825, and became Lieutenant in September, 1826; Captain, March, 1839; Major, December, 1843; and Lieutenant-Colonel, March, 1845. He commanded the 10th Regiment in the Sulej campaigns of 1841, 1845, 1846, including the battle of Sobroon (for which he bore the medal), where he had a horse shot under him, and was slightly wounded, and, in consequence, was nominated a C.B. He again commanded the 10th Regiment in the Punjab campaign of 1848 and 1849, including the whole of the siege operations before Multan. On the 17th of August of the former year he commanded the troops which repulsed the enemy's night attack upon the British camp at Motee Thol, and on the 12th of September commanded the left column of attack at the defeat of the enemy in their strongly-trenched position before Multan. After the action he succeeded to the command of the whole of the troops which were engaged, and held the position until relieved on the following morning, although wounded, and exposed to the repeated attempts of the enemy to retake it. On the 7th of November he commanded the right brigade in the action at Seergh Kund, and with it led the attack: on this occasion he captured the whole of the enemy's guns without firing a shot. On the following 17th of November, in the carrying of the heights before Multan, he commanded the reserve on the extreme right, and directed the attack of its leading column. On the 18th of February, 1849, he joined with the Multan force the army under Lord Gough, and commanded the 10th Regiment at the battle of Goojerat; he was specially named by the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor-General for his skill, ability, and intrepidity upon this occasion, and was rewarded with the medal and clasps. He became Colonel in June, 1854; and on the outbreak of the Indian mutiny he took a leading part in nearly all the most important actions, and was repeatedly commended in the despatches of General Sir Colin Campbell. He was promoted to the rank of Major-General in 1858, and nominated a K.C.B. for his distinguished services in the command of a column during the operations in India prior to and after the capture of Lucknow, and was also rewarded with the medal and clasp.

MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.—This gentleman, whose death at the age of 73, is just recorded, began his political life when quite young, and took part in the struggles which marked the reign of Ferdinand VII. After having contributed to the establishment of the Constitution of 1812, being unwilling to follow the revolutionary current or to countenance the King's absolutist tendency, both equally dangerous for the liberties of the nation, he did not accept the presidency of the Council in 1822 without reluctance. In 1823, after the Throne had been restored by French arms, he was exiled by Ferdinand VII., and went to Paris, where he remained eight years, and made himself many friends. He was recalled in 1833, and in the following year became the head of a Cabinet which lasted only a few months. In 1839 he again withdrew to Paris, and while there was appointed Ambassador by the Regent Espartero. After the restoration of Queen Christina, he joined the Narvaiz Ministry, and left it only with Narvaiz in 1846. From 1847 to 1851 he was again Ambassador to Paris. He became First Secretary of State in 1857, and in the following year was appointed President of the Council of State. M. Martinez was not only an eloquent speaker, but an author and a poet, and leaves numerous works, some of which Spain may well be proud of.

THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE POET LAUREATE.—It is stated that Mr. Alfred Tennyson has just received from her Royal Highness the Princess Alice a most beautiful and touching autograph letter, written by command of her Majesty, expressive of the intense pleasure and consolation which the Queen has derived from the verses prefixed by the Poet Laureate to the new edition of his "Idylls of the King"—a work which was an especial favourite with the late Prince Consort.

STEAM-REGENERATOR.—Some very interesting experiments were made on Saturday last at Messrs. Collinge's axle-works, Westminster-road, on some discoveries in the working of steam-engines which promise to effect great economy with increased power. The apparatus is called a "steam-regenerator," and the foundation of the system lies in condensing the steam in such a way that the water is returned back to the boiler in a heated state, and no further supply of water is needed except for the treating quantity that arises from leakage. This dispenses with the apparatus for carrying water, reduces the size of the boilers, saves costs, and keeps up such an equable temperature as to prevent incrustation and greatly to reduce the risk of explosion. The chemistry of the apparatus itself is another interesting recommendation. Curiously enough, the honour of the discovery and its practical application is pretty equally divided between three men—an Englishman, an Italian, and a Frenchman.

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